

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIA

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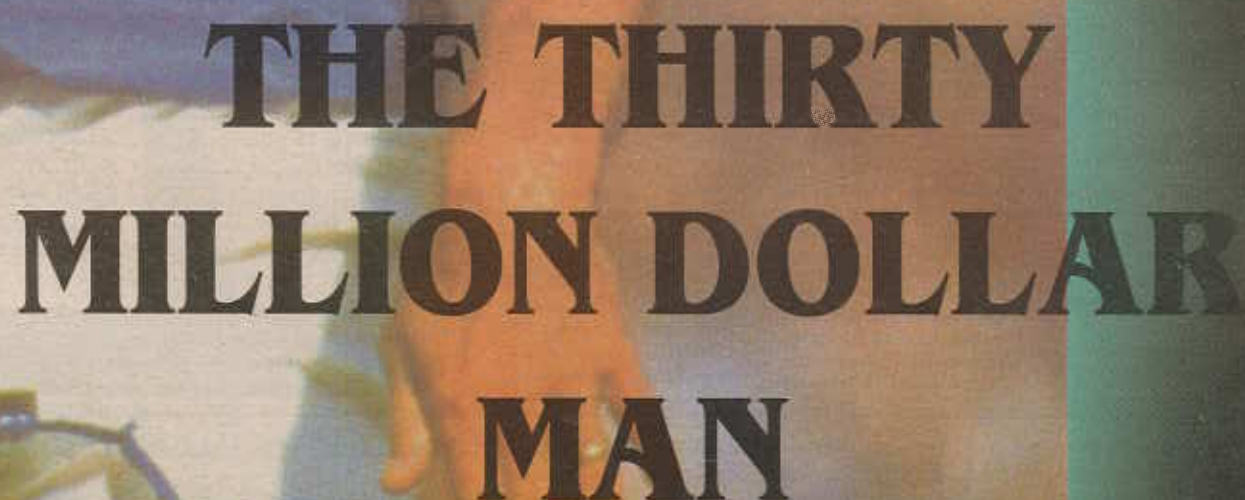
SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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A close-up photograph of a person's arm and hand, with a green vertical bar on the right side. The text "THE THIRTY MILLION DOLLAR MAN" is overlaid in a large, bold, serif font. The background is a soft-focus image of a person's arm and hand, with a green vertical bar on the right side.

THE THIRTY MILLION DOLLAR MAN

Proposal for the Replacement of Penalty Shoot-Outs

Editorial

Many people playing our great game have a healthy respect for the referee, the game controller, the arbiter. Whatever the name the person interpreting the Laws of the Game is a vital and integral part of the contest.

These days they have referee's assistants on the touch or side lines. Until June 30, 1996 they were better known as linesmen. A new name was necessary because of the increasingly complex nature of the game and the speed with which the ball moves from one end of the field to the other. Also not all these folks are men these days.

Maybe, just maybe, the reason that the number of goals has declined at the top level is because assistant referees are smarter at picking up off sides therefore reducing the forays into opposition penalty and goal areas.

The task for all three officials is demanding. Absolute concentration is necessary. A sense of humour helps, for the referee. A decision, at the top level, can make the difference between substantial win bonuses and a lower amount.

Considerable criticism was heaped on a referee at the recent European Championship because he 'disallowed' a claimed goal. According to television video replays, after the ball hit the underside of the bar it bounced down over the goal line. The shot was magnificent, over 35 metres and like a rocket.

Both the referee and assistant referee were perfectly placed for the passage of play in progress. It was impossible for either of them to see if the ball bounced goal side of the line.

"Bring on the video replays." This was a cry heard far and wide from the uncomprehending and naive. To adequately cover the field dozens of cameras would be required including overhead ones.

TV cameras, placed on the side lines looking at the play, are usually telephoto lenses equipped. The operator zooms into the action. This action distorts the picture received, as anyone who has taken still photographs with a telephoto lens would know.

Referees may err, they are human. They will make what some people call 'mistakes'. So does every other person on the field—err or make mistakes.

Referees certainly do not deserve physical assaults. Anyone who does this, be they player, coach, manager or club official deserves to be removed from the World Game.

People who perpetuate these assaults have forgotten that it is only a game.

One of our regular correspondents was recently pushed by a coach. That is unacceptable.

A teenager in the Wollongong area aimed a Kung Fu style kick at an assistant referee who happened to be a female.

How many assaults have there been around the country which have gone unreported?

It is the duty of team and club officials to ensure that all players realise their responsibilities to the referees and to this great game.

Assaults on referees are a serious offence and could even result in the person responsible being charged by the police.

No one person is greater than the game.

BY STEVEN HARRISON

Current Situation:

Penalties are used to decide knock-out matches which are drawn after 120 minutes of play, thereby reducing the game in question to an irrelevance. At its extreme, the shoot-out rewards a team employing defensive, negative, cynical and unfair play with an equal opportunity to win the game from an enterprising, positive and fair team.

Proposal:

Three positive elements of the game are rewarded with points and three negative ones are punished. At the end of extra time in a drawn game the points are tallied and the team with the highest total will win. If points are equal, then the match should be awarded to the team with the better disciplinary record in the match or, if still equal, the tournament.

Each team will be awarded points as follows:

Shots on target (saved, hit woodwork) - 5 points each
Shots not on target (miss the goal, but cross the goal line) - 2 points each



Corners - 1 point each
Each team will have points deducted as follows:
Fouls committed (free kick awarded to opponents) - 1 point each
Players booked - 2 points each
Players sent off - 5 points each

Benefits of the Points System:

Tactics based solely on defence will be worthless.

Teams will be coached to attack.

Players will be encouraged to shoot.

More goals will be scored.

Individual players will not suffer the agony of missing a decisive penalty.

There will be fewer fouls and, as a result, fewer injuries.

Players will be forced to concentrate on the game, rather than their opponents.

Games will flow.

Stalemate matches will become more exciting towards the end instead of grinding to a halt.

Teams defending a one goal lead would lose points under sustained pressure, and be at a distinct disadvantage should they concede an equaliser.

Players with exceptional talent will be protected.



produce a fair result according to the actual match.

Summary:

The points system for deciding matches as outlined above can only have a positive impact on the World's most popular sport. Under the present rules there will be more and more draws as the standard of play picks up around the world. A better solution than penalties is needed before it does more damage to the image of soccer.

The points system is designed to combat the negative tactics employed by many teams today.

Neutralising your opponent will no longer be an advantage, but playing the game skilfully, positively and fairly will give you a decisive edge in competition.

NB: This suggestion was forwarded to FIFA in July by Steven Harrison of Sydney.



There will be a fewer draws.

This points system would add more excitement to championship matches. There are scoreboards at all major grounds and the accumulated tally would be displayed and updated during drawn periods of the game.

The fans will be happy.

In the following table are two examples of matches at Euro 96 which were decided on penalties.

I have applied the points system to both games to

Examples (Statistics published in British Soccer Weekly — July 3, 1996).

England v Germany — Semi-Final, Euro 96
(Germany won 6-5 on penalties)

	England Stats	Points	Germany Stats	Points
Shots on target	5	25	4	20
Shots not on target	7	14	5	10
Corners	6	6	4	4
Fouls committed	21	21-	24	24-
Players booked	1	2-	2	4-
Players sent off	0	0	0	0
Total		22		6

Winner: England.

The statistics of attacking play speak for themselves and in this case the more positive and entertaining team would have won.

Czech Republic v France — Semi-Final, Euro 96 (Czech Republic won 6-5 on penalties)

	Czech Republic Stats	Points	France Stats	Points
Shots on target	5	25	1	5
Shots not on target	5	10	9	18
Corners	3	3	9	9
Fouls committed	24	24-	19	19-
Players booked	3	6-	3	6-
Players sent off	0	0	0	0
Total		8		7

Winner: Czech Republic.

Parramatta (Melita) Eagles celebrate 40 years

On Saturday August 10 a special celebration will take place to the west of Sydney. Many old friends, former players & supporters of Parramatta Eagles will gather to commemorate 40 years of the Club.

Formed in 1956 from an amalgamation of two clubs which centred on post war immigrants from Malta, the new Club was called Melita Eagles.

In recent years they have graced the National League being controversially dumped in 1995. A restaurant is a favourite gathering point at Melita Stadium, Everley Road, Chester Hill. Naturally it is named the 'Eagles Nest'.

Page 13 of this edition of ABSW contains a photograph from 1953 of the then Melita Soccer Football Club. A young man called Sam Vella, later to receive the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to soccer, can easily be recognised.

Parramatta Eagles have a record to be proud of.

* Congratulations from all at ABSW *

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STAFF

EDITOR: Bob Brooks
CHIEF SUB EDITOR: Henry Wiggler
MELBOURNE EDITOR: Greg Blake
STAFF REPORTER: John Economos
LAYOUT: Karen Lucas McKenzie

TYPESETTING: Mary Quarty
PHOTOGRAPHY: Jorge Gonzalez
Phone: 015 709-318
SCANDISK: Stewart Johnson

CORRESPONDENTS

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MELBOURNE: Con Stavros
NEWCASTLE: Dane Skafte
QUEENSLAND: Glenn Davis

WOLLONGONG: Phil Murphy
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WOMEN'S CORRESPONDENT: Janene Mar

ADVERTISING

Sydney: John Economos (02) 9560-3900
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◆ Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 7 days PRIOR to issue date.

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Good copy typist required by this sportspaper for 22 hours a week to start mid August.

Friday 9-5pm, Sunday Noon-7pm, Monday 8-5pm.

Must be a goal motivated person.

An excellent command of the English Language is required, an understanding of soccer is advantageous.

An opportunity exists to learn QuarkXpress.

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SPORTSCENE

GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Manis Lamond Sydney United's dynamic and most unpredictable striker, is currently playing in Singapore with a top club, Sembawang during the off-season in Australia. It is expected that Manis will be released from United for the new Ericsson League season and Zoran Matic's Collingwood Warriors are expected to snap him up.

Manis meanwhile is also required to play World Cup qualifiers for Papua New Guinea (his place of birth) in September.

Joe Bacak former UTS Olympic and Melbourne Knights' scorching-paced striker, is currently to be found over in Holland of all places.

The flank-speedster is playing for first division side, Vitesse Arnhem.

And who is the Vitesse coach?

Would you believe former Ipswich Town's outstanding Dutch midfielder Arnold Muhren who played for Bobby Robson when Ipswich won the F.A.Cup in 1978.

Miron Bleiberg's Brisbane

the Ericsson Cup outfit will only just be coming up to full fitness in readiness for the start of the national League in



Manis Lamond: Sydney United is expected to release him.

from Rochdale Rovers and Brisbane City. These two finished equal on points with Rovers just ahead on goal difference.

Alistair Edwards, the UTS



Frank Mengotti: Evergreen player with Brisbane Lions.

Olympic attacking left midfielder, arrived back in Sydney last Saturday from Europe.

Originally Alistair suddenly flew to Doncaster, Yorkshire, England to attend his uncle's funeral.

On the way back to Australia, the flanker spent almost three weeks in Holland training with first division side, F.C. Groningen.

Edwards told 'Good Oil' "I just wanted to do some of their pre-season training over there which would help me here."

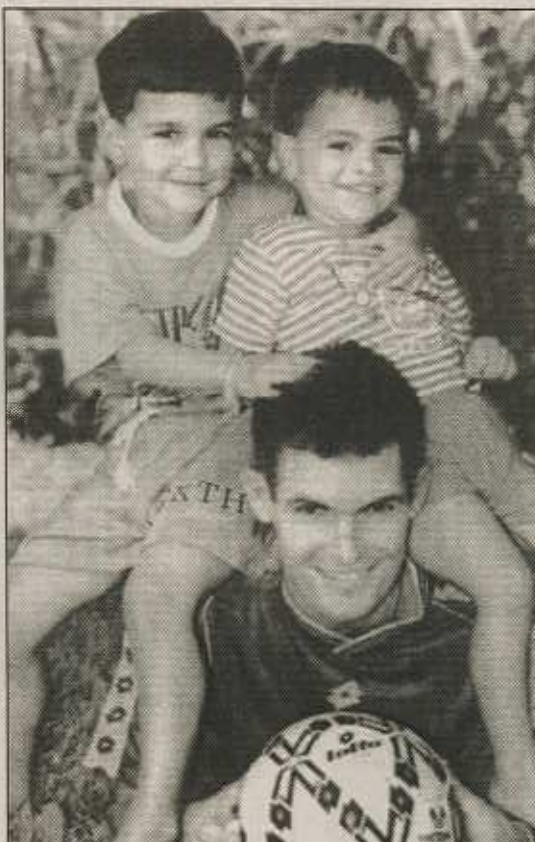
NSW Soccer Federation last night, Monday, at the Eagles Nest Restaurant, Melita Stadium, organised the crucial draw for the 1996 Waratah Cup, Round 6, just after ABSW had gone to press.

As was the case last season, the Waratah Cup, won last year by Sydney United, will again carry the huge cash prize of \$50,000 for the eventual winner. Making it the richest Knock Out Cup competition in Australia.

Battling it out for the eventual cash prize, will be the six NSW and ACT Ericsson League teams Canberra Cosmos, Marconi, Newcastle Breakers, UTS Olympic, Sydney United and Wollongong City.

The 10 sides from the various NSW and ACT State Leagues that still remain in the Cup are: Bathurst '75 Division 1, Canterbury Marrickville Super League, Highfields Wolves Northern NSW, Hills United Division 1, Parramatta Eagles Super League, Rockdale Suns Super League, Sutherland Shire Super League, Sydney Cosmos Division 1, Warringah Dolphins Super League and Weston Creek ACT Premier.

Round 6 of the Waratah Cup takes place on the weekend of August 31.



Alistair Edwards: Has been training in Holland. Is seen here with his two boys Cameron and Ryan.

The Cup Final has been set down for September 22.

The full draw will appear in next week's edition.

Marconi have been invited to tour China, Shanghai in fact, on August 20, to play two exhibition matches in that hugh metropolis.

Coach Manfred Schaefer will be taking both Sean Babic and Craig Foster, his new signings, to China with the Marconi squad.

At this stage Manfred tells us that he is not keen to sign anyone else, 'unless of outstanding ability'.

Brisbane Strikers at long last appointed high profile player, Frank Farina as their coach last Wednesday.

It is understood Farina reluctantly took the job on, only to help out the Strikers.

As he stated to 'Good Oil' "I took the position about two seasons earlier than I had really planned."

Farina has pledged to upgrade many young talented players into the Strikers' Ericsson League squad.

Goal ace Farina, although having seen 32 summers, still has much top Soccer left in him.

Port Kembla Soccer Club is holding a special Sportsmen's Dinner on Friday, August 16 as we stated last week.



Frank Farina: Ericsson League's only Player-Coach.

The rapidly expanding Port Kembla, is coached by flamboyant and former Australian World Cup striker, Adrian ('Noddy') Alston, who last season coached them to the 'treble'.

The Dinner venue is set down for the picturesque

'Harbour Front Restaurant' near the Novotel. Tickets which are \$50 each, include a three course sumptuous meal plus all drinks and may be ordered by contacting Port Kembla's Club president, Vince on 014-490-695.

Special guests for the



John Warren: Special guest at Port Kembla SC Sportsmen's Dinner.

evening will be four of Australia's 1974 illustrious World Cup Finals squad, Adrian Alston, Atti Aboyni, John Warren and Manfred Schaefer.



Sean Babic: Playing with Marconi for the first time in Shanghai on the Club's pre-season tour.



**YOUTH LEAGUE
TRIALS
MARCONI
FAIRFIELD
Under 19s**

Dates: August Wednesday 7
Monday 12 & Wednesday 14
Monday 19 & Wednesday 21
Monday 26 & Wednesday 28

Time: 6pm Start

Venue: Back Fields at

Club Marconi

Marconi Road, Bossley Park

(02) 9823 2222

NEW SOUTH WALES SOCCER FEDERATION



1997 FEDERATION STATE LEAGUE

The New South Wales Soccer Federation Limited invites expressions of interest from any new clubs who wish to enter the 1997 competitions conducted by this organisation.

Please submit your details in writing to:

**THE GENERAL MANAGER
NSW SOCCER FEDERATION
PO BOX 6024
BLACKTOWN BUSINESS CENTRE NSW 2148**

Prior to September 11, 1996

For further information, please contact
Mr Rod Woods on (02) 9629 1800

GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

@@@@@@@@@@ Steve Deszpot last week in Canberra, was elected President of the ACT Soccer Federation unopposed.

Mr Deszpot, a prominent member of the Soccer media for many years, is committed to rebuilding much needed confidence in Soccer with the corporate sector, the media, as well as the ACT and Federal governments.

Hugh White was elected Vice President with David Earle Treasurer.

The new Board of Directors is convinced that it has the capacity to provide the directions needed by Soccer in the national capital.

With the support of all member clubs virtually unanimous, the ACT Soccer community anticipates a new era of streamlined management at Federation level.

@@@@@@@@@@ Australia's Soccer Olympians are expected to arrive back from the Atlanta Games tomorrow (Wednesday) on Qantas flight QF 8712 due to land at Kingsford Smith Airport, Sydney at 9.35 am.

A number of former Olympics Coach Eddie Thomson's squad have already been released to their respective European clubs. This enables them to join in pre-season training with their club colleagues.

Seven players stayed in Atlanta for the Closing Ceremony along with Thomson.

nation of Cyprus for trials, during recent weeks.

After two weeks in Cyprus, Walter returned to Sydney, unhappy with terms offered to him.

But late last week, Ardane again took off, this time bound for Mexico of all places, hoping to crack a contract with a first division side there.

Mexican registrations closed last Saturday and we've heard nothing since.

@@@@@@@@@@ UTS Olympic commenced

Patikas, left-midfield speedster and Barcelona Olympic player Steve Refenes, as well as Melita Eagles' outstanding elastic, former World Youth championships goalkeeper, Anthony Franken.

Ratliffe is also understood to want to sign up another midfielder, 18 year old Bert Emerton from the A.I.S.

@@@@@@@@@@

spreading the gospel of Soccer in the deep jungles of the Philippines.

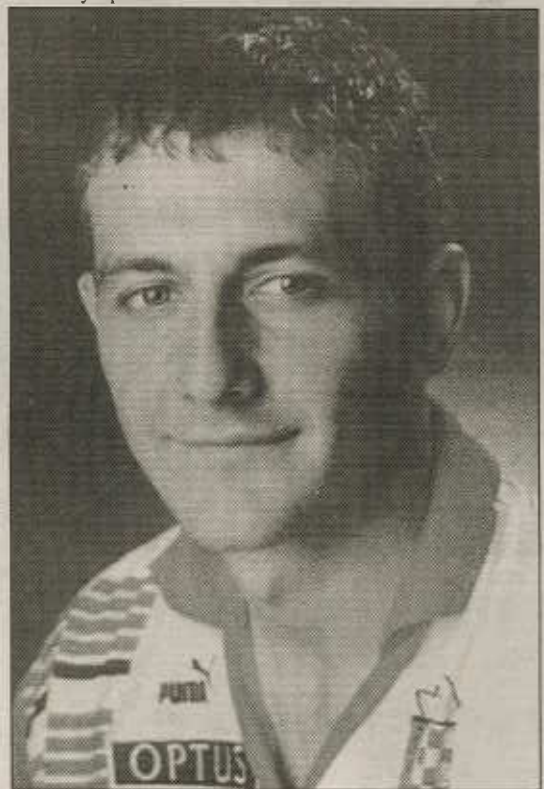
In next week's edition of ABSW, we will bring you an incredible, and exclusive, full special feature, of this lone Australian's pioneering efforts with underprivileged

children all thirsting to learn the game of Soccer.

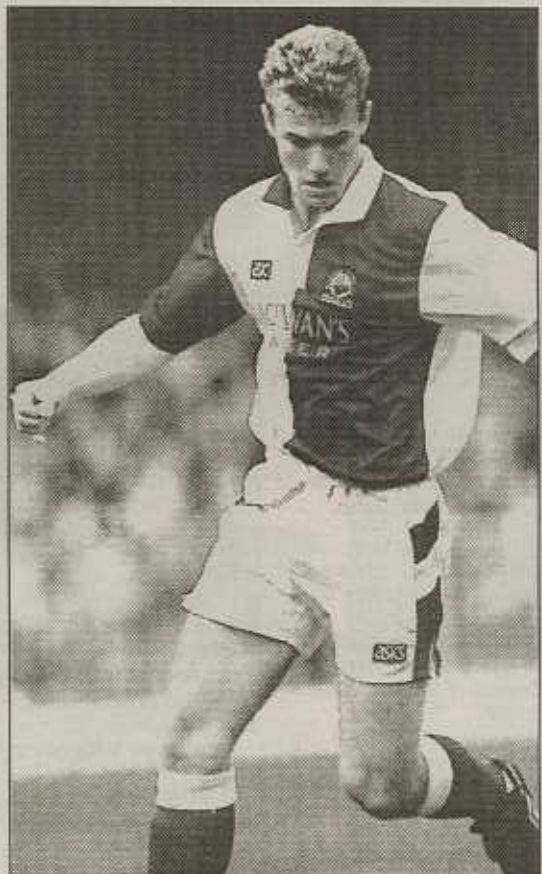
@@@@@@@@@@ Humour of the week.

Last week, ABC Radio gleefully made the following announcement on a Sports programme.

"Record transfer fee of \$29



Ante Moric: Could be playing in Belgium very soon.



Alan Shearer: Blackburn, Blackburn sound similar just ask the ABC radio sports announcer.



Anthony Franken: Has signed for UTS Olympic for 1996/97 season.

Josip Skoko scored twice and was adjudged man of the match.

@@@@@@@@@@

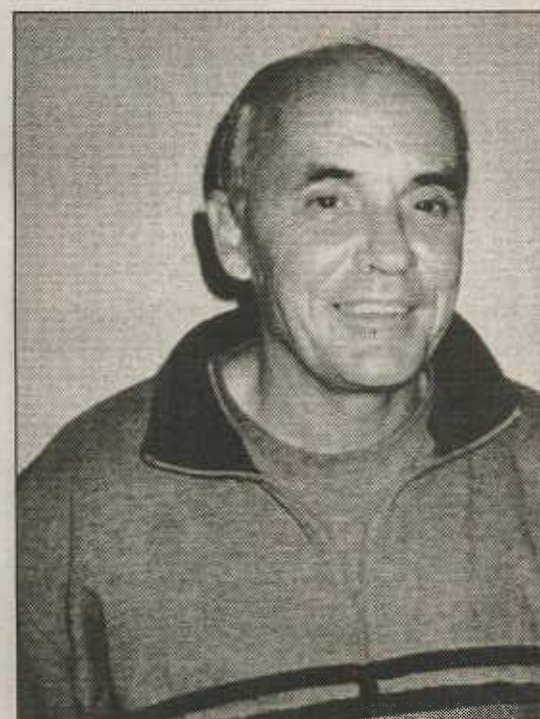
Abbas Saad, former Sydney Olympic and Malaysian League strike-hero, unceremoniously ostracised from all Soccer by the Singaporean FA last year on corruption allegations, is still in Singapore, but in business.

Abbas still a national hero with Singaporean Soccer fans, owns and runs a Dance-disco night-club there called "Hotbod".

"Hotbod" night-spot guarantees a 'Best Night Out For All Girls' as it has Male Dancers on stage.



loss to Hadjuk Split. Blazincic (Perosh 46), Trajkovski (Gibson 46), Kupresak, D Culina (Vrkic 46), Rudan, Seric (Didulica 63), Zdrilic, Becirbegovic (Barns 56), Markovac, Milicic, Bilokapic (Usalj 75).



Graeme McKinnon: Spreading the "gospel" of Soccer in the Philippines.



@@@@@@@@@@ Walter Ardane, the UTS Olympic attacking central-midfielder, made a rush trip to the Mediterranean island

their pre-season training last night at Leichhardt Oval.

It is understood that coach David Ratcliffe will sometime this week compile a list of names of players he no longer feels are required for the new season.



Meanwhile Olympic, during the off-season, have signed up explosive striker-cum-midfielder, Jimmy



Walter Ardane: Been to Cyprus and now in Mexico and looking for a contract.

ANTE MORIC, Sydney United and Atlanta Olympics attacking left-back, could soon be heading off to Belgium.

It is understood that whilst Moric has been with Australia's Olympic team in the USA, an offer for his services lobbied into United's office last week.

Belgium has been a popular country for players from Australia to go but there have been difficulties with some clubs and the contracts that the players have been on.

@@@@@@@@@@ Graeme MacKinnon, the former outstanding right winger for the giants of Australian Soccer during the 60s, Apia, is currently



UNDER-19s YOUTH TEAM TRIALS

U.T.S. OLYMPIC SOCCER CLUB

The above Soccer Club will be holding trials for their

Under 19 Youth squad on:

Wednesday: August 7
Friday: August 9
Monday: August 12

TIME: 6.30pm sharp

VENUE: MARRICKVILLE OVAL
Frazer and Livingstone Roads,
MARRICKVILLE NSW

All players attending must have their birthdays falling on, or after, January 1, 1977.

Further enquiries please contact:
Mr Nick Matsias: Tel: (02) 9759-4373





Atlanta 1996

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Atlanta Olympic Games Football Tournament

Nigeria & USA GOLD!



Atlanta 1996

TM. © 1992 ACOG

FOOTBALL — MENS

Group A (Washington/Birmingham)

PORTUGAL	2	TUNISIA	0
Alfonzo Martins (12, 67)			
ARGENTINA	3	USA	1
Lopez (35)		Reyna (1)	
Crespo (56)			
Simeone (90)			
ARGENTINA	1	PORTUGAL	1
Ariel Ortega (45)		Munez (70)	
USA	2	TUNISIA	0
Kirovski (38)			
Maisonneuve (90)			
PORTUGAL	1	USA	1
Alves (4)		M/neuve (90)	
ARGENTINA	1	TUNISIA	1
Daniel Ortega (6)		Mkucher (75)	

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
ARGENTINA	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
PORTUGAL	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
USA	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Tunisia	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

Group B — (Orlando/Miami)

SPAIN	1	SAUDI ARABIA	0
Garcia (80)			
FRANCE	2	AUSTRALIA	0
Pires (12)			
Maurice (75)			
SPAIN	1	FRANCE	1
Garcia (85)			
Lewinski (38)			
AUSTRALIA	2	SAUDI ARABIA	1
Tsenkenis (11)		Al-Khilaaw (37)	
Viduka (64)			
SPAIN	3	AUSTRALIA	2
Raul Gonzales (40, 90)		Vidmar (3)	
Denia (86)		Corica (12)	
FRANCE	2	SAUDI ARABIA	1
Maurice (pen. 19)		Fuad Amin (26)	
Sibierski (48)			

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
FRANCE	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
SPAIN	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Australia	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Saudi Arabia	3	0	0	3	2	5	0

Group C (Birmingham/Washington)

MEXICO	1	ITALY	0
Palencia (83)			
KOREA REP	1	GHANA	0
Yoon Jong Hwan (41)			
MEXICO	0	KOREA REP	0
GHANA	3	ITALY	2
Sabah (14, 72)		Branca (14, 43)	
Arhinful (pen. 62)			
MEXICO	1	GHANA	1
Abundis (66)		Pardo (o.g. 44)	
ITALY	2	KOREA REP	1
Branca (25, 83)		Lee Ki Young (62)	

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
MEXICO	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
GHANA	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Korean Rep	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Italy	3	1	0	2	4	5	3

Group D (Miami/Orlando)

JAPAN	1	BRAZIL	0
Teruyoshi (72)			
NIGERIA	1	HUNGARY	0
Kanu (75)			
BRAZIL	3	HUNGARY	1
Ronaldinho (34)		Madar (61)	
Juninho (64)			
Bebeto (84)			
NIGERIA	2	JAPAN	0
Akiba (o.g. 83)			
Okocha (pen. 90)			
BRAZIL	1	NIGERIA	0
Ronaldinho (30)			
JAPAN	3	HUNGARY	2
Maezono (pen. 40, 90)		Sandor (2)	
Uemura (90)		Madar (51)	

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
BRAZIL	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
NIGERIA	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Japan	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
Hungary	3	0	0	3	3	7	0

Quarter Finals (Miami/Birmingham)

FRANCE	1	PORTUGAL	2
Maurice (pen. 49)		Capucho (8)	
		Calado (pen., 104)	

ARGENTINA	4	SPAIN	0
Crespo (47 pen, 89)			
Arrazabal (o.g. 53)			
Lopez (66)			
MEXICO	0	NIGERIA	2
		Okocha (20)	
		Babayaro (85)	
		GHANA	2
		Akunnar (23)	
		Aboagye (53)	

BRAZIL	4		
Duodu (o.g. 17)			
Ronaldinho (56, 62)			
Bebeto (72)			

Semi Finals (Athens)

ARGENTINA	2	PORTUGAL	0
Crespo (54, 67)			
NIGERIA	4	BRAZIL	3
Concicao (2, 36)			
Bebeto (29)			
Carlos (o.g. 20)			
Ikpeba (81)			
Kanu (90, 93)			

Bronze Medal (Athens)

BRAZIL	5	PORTUGAL	0
Ronaldinho (4)			
Flavio (10)			
Bebeto (47, 54, 75)			

Final (Athens)			
NIGERIA	3	ARGENTINA	2
Babayaro (28)		Lopez (2)	
Amokachi (74)		Crespo (pen. 50)	
Amunike (89)			

Exuberant Nigeria became the first African team to win an Olympic soccer gold medal when they scored a last-gasp and rather controversial goal to beat Argentina 3-2 in the final today.

The Nigerians, who have delighted fans with their flair and attacking play, settled a thrilling game when substitute Emmanuel Amunike broke an Argentine offside trap to sweep the ball into the net in the 89th minute.

Argentina, who had twice been in front, protested in vain as Nigeria, who had never won an Olympic gold medal before yesterday, celebrated its second gold in two days.

Earlier, Claudio Lopez and Hernan Crespo, with a hotly-disputed penalty, had put Argentina ahead, but Celestine Babayaro and Daniel Amokachi had hauled the Africans back each time.

"This win was important for football in the world because we saw that attacking football can win," said Nigeria's coach, Dutchman Johannes Bonfrere.

"Our third goal was the best in the tournament for us because it won the medal," he said. "The referee made the right decision." Argentina coach Daniel Passarella said: "It was a great final between two great teams."

"I'm very happy with our performance in this tournament. I don't want to talk about the referee or the game at the moment. It's too early."

Simply reaching the final was an unlikely feat for Nigeria, whose preparations were dogged by administrative chaos.

For the second time in four days - Nigeria beat Brazil 4-3 in their semi-final on Wednesday - the Africa-South American clash produced captivating soccer.

Lopez struck in the second minute, heading in a cross from Crespo but Nigeria had the better of the first half thanks to inspired play from Augustine Okocha and Nwankwo Kanu, two-goal hero against Brazil.

The Argentine defence, which hardly broke sweat in keeping clean sheets against European opposition in their previous two games, was repeatedly ripped apart by the Africans' quick passing and trickery.

One move led to Amokachi hitting the post before Babayaro equalised, rising at the far post to head home following a free kick in the 28th minute. Argentina, traditionally known for the more sinister aspects of their game, were also inventive, with midfielders Ariel Ortega and Hugo Morales causing constant problems for Nigeria.

The teams continued to defy sweltering



Daniel Amokachi: The Everton striker equalised with a cheeky chip.



Gao Hong: China's custodian-esse could not prevent USA winning the first ever Olympic gold in womens football.

WOMENS

Group E (Miami/Orlando)

CHINA	2	SWEDEN	0
Guihong Shi (62)			
Lihong Zhao (90)			
USA	3	DENMARK	0
Valentini (35)			
Hamm (39)			
Tiffeny (49)			
USA	2	SWEDEN	1
Venturini (scored both)		Swedberg	
CHINA	5	DENMARK	1
Wynjie (9)		Madsen (70)	
Quihong Shi (16, 76)			
Ai Ling (31)			
Guihongshi (35)			
CHINA	0	USA	0
SWEDEN	3	DENMARK	1
Videkull (73)		Jensen (60)	
Swedberg (81, 87)			

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
CHINA	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
USA	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Sweden	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Denmark	3	0	0	3	2	11	0

Group F (Washington/Birmingham)

NORWAY	2	BRAZIL	2
Medalen (32)		Pretinha (56, 89)	
Aarones (68)			
GERMANY	3	JAPAN	2
Wiegmann (6)		Kioka (19)	
Tomel (o.g. 31)		Noda (35)	
Mohr (63)			
NORWAY	3	GERMANY	2
Medalen		Wiegmann, Prinz	
Aarones, Riise			
NORWAY	4	JAPAN	0
Prettersen (25, 86)			
Medalen (60)			
Tangeras (75)			
BRAZIL	2	JAPAN	0
Jackson (67)			
Pretinha (77)			
BRAZIL	1	GERMANY	1
Sissi (53)		Wunderlich (4)	

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
NORWAY	3	2	1	0	9	4	7
BRAZIL	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Germany	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Japan	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

Semi-Finals (Athens)

CHINA	3	BRAZIL	2
Sun (5)		Roseli (67)	
Wei (83, 90)		Pretinha (72)	
NORWAY	1	USA	2
Medalen (18)		Akers (77 pen)	
		McMillan (100)	

*Scoring times not given.

Bronze Medal (Athens)

NORWAY	2	BRAZIL	0
Aarones (21,24)			

FINAL

ATHENS, GEORGIA

USA	2	CHINA	1
McMillan (19)		Sun Wen (32)	
Milbrett (68)			

* 76,481 — the largest crowd ever recorded for a womens sporting event watched the women's final.

conditions after halftime. In the 50th minute, Ariel Ortega, who has been booked for diving in the Argentine championship, appeared to fall over in the penalty area but referee Pierluigi Collina of Italy gave a penalty against Taribo West.

Crespo converted for his sixth goal of the tournament, which left him joint top scorer with Brazil's Bebeto.

But Nigeria kept attacking and after forcing goalkeeper Pablo Cavallero to make several difficult saves, Amokachi equalised.

Oceania for the Cup!

Dear Sir,
David Hill has wasted much effort as well as antagonising many influential soccer VIPs with his futile attempt to scuttle the Oceania Confederation just at the very moment when OCEANIA might actually become worthwhile.

Next year FIFA will stage the first Confederations Cup made up of the best nations from each of the six Confederations that are part of FIFA. They are Uruguay, Germany, USA, South Africa, one from Asia to be decided and most likely Australia from OCEANIA.

The Confederations Cup will put the Socceroos in the spotlight of International football like never before in an elite officially backed FIFA tournament which could have the potential to become second only to the World Cup as a nation's tournament.

Previously Australia's main efforts and exposure in International football has been its World Cup Olympic games and Youth Cup campaigns. Without

denigrating the importance of these tournaments the fact is soccer minnows like Australia with little clout and limited resources are severely limited in what they can achieve in these events.

In contrast the structure of the Confederations Cup tournament (as I understand it) actually favours Australia somewhat because it provides for a more level playing field so to speak. It has in theory great potential to lift the status of OZ soccer at home and abroad and will definitely mean serious international matches against some top class opposition on a more regular basis, hopefully played in Australia in the near future.

Now that cities like Melbourne, Adelaide and possibly Perth are going to construct world class stadiums suitable for soccer for the 2000 Olympics this means that Australia will be able to stage a world class tournament like the Confederations Cup when the opportunity arises.

R Melor,
Bondi, NSW

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN &
BRITISH SOCCER
WEEKLY
PO BOX 155,
MARRICKVILLE
NSW 2204
Fax: (02) 9550-9332

A TAXING OLYMPICS

Dear Sir,

In a week of heart-breaking news for Australian Soccer, a brilliant flash of good news from John Economos on the excellent "Good News" page, to cheer up the serious soccer supporters. (ABSW 30.7.96)

I quote, "Thomson has now completed his involvement with the Olyroos. Raul Blanco takes over. It is Blanco's task to lead the Australian Olympians to Sydney 2000."

With more than 120 Australia players overseas to choose from plus a dozen or so very talented local player

deserving consideration our National coach Thomson, managed to string seven overseas games together without the pleasure of a single goal. No club in the world would accept such a result and not do something about it.

The Australian taxpayer may have more than a passing interest in our Olympic efforts.

In 1995-96 the men's and women's soccer Olympic campaigns received \$1,063,000 from the Sports Assistance Scheme and

\$775,500 (from the Olympic Assistance Program ("S.M. Herald" 10.7.96), a total of \$1,838,500, and out in the first round.

However, cycling received over \$3.52 million, Rowing \$3.42 million, Swimming \$3.07 million, but the real eye-opener was the Fencing's single competitor who cost the taxpayer \$386,000.

We missed out on the World Cup qualification we missed out at the Olympics. What is missing????

George Green,
Alstonville.

BLAME TACTICS

Dear Sir,

The talented young men who did such a tremendous job for Australia at the Olympic games have been subjected to some humiliating comments from the coach of the Spanish team.

"Australia is an inferior team to us," (sic) quipped the coach from Spain. His team was behind two — one at half-time and should have been four — one down to the Olyroos shortly after half-time. The Spanish coach should be thanking Thomson as it was he who lost the game for Australia.

The players gave their best and should be congratulated for their efforts. It must be very frustrating for these players to play to Thomson's strange tactics. They looked totally confused and were reluctant to attack for fear of reprisal from their defensively minded coach.

Our national teams have been badly prepared for almost four years. The blame for the lack of success due to bad coaching must surely rest with Thomson and Scheinflug. We need a complete change of coaching techniques which encompass tactics that are more adaptable to our players. Our player are skilful and intelligent and are therefore capable of adapting to tactics other than long balls over the top.

I believe that the "use-by-date" for Thomson and Scheinflug have arrived. They coached our national teams to a few quarter finals but they are not finals coaching materials. They lack the knowledge to get teams to this next level.

Serge Armansin,
Everton Hill, Qld.

Editors Note: Raul Blanco has taken over as Australia's Olympic team coach.



Raul Blanco: Has taken over the Olympic effort for Sydney 2000.

DON'T ROB THE GAME

AN OPEN LETTER TO DAVID HILL

Dear Sir,

Your obsessive persistence to "Australianise" the game of Soccer in order to make it attractive to the corporate dollar is viewed by many as commendable and long overdue. The game needs someone with authority, perseverance and vision. We thought you were just the person to do it. We were wrong! The fact is, all the vision and good intentions are worthless when the end result becomes detrimental to the values our society holds dear. Your vision is fading away simply because you are unable to accept others for what they are.

Present day AUSTRALIA is the country where people are not judged by the colours of their emblems or their waving flags or even their diverse ways of life. Australia, which I know very well judges people by the strength of their character and contribution they are able to give to its economic, cultural, and spiritual development. That Australia will judge you and indeed condemn you for imposing your sets of standards on others without any regard for their feelings

and reward they may be entitled to. The two most prominent clubs on the Australian Soccer scene are due for recognition in producing the majority of representative players, as well as for over 40 years contribution to the game. However instead of recognition, firstly they are denied their identity and then their memorabilia.

You should be reminded of Iago's words...

"But he that filches from me my good name

Robs me of that which not enriches him

And makes me poor indeed."

Yes Sir! You have made me a lesser Australian. You have taken my good name and then my jewels without enriching yourself. In the end it's Australia that is the real victim. Administrators come and go. Australians who choose the world game will lick their wounds and continue with their lives. Hill may burn, Wran may sing and Negus may nag but soccer will overcome the burden.

Peter Lukunic,
Toongabbie, NSW.

WAKE UP SOCCER AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,

Soccer Australia is killing Australian Soccer. How ironic?

By abolishing ethnic logos from club shirts, Soccer Australia believes that they will attract more "Australians" through the gate. That more people will buy the merchandise, be more interested in the game and so on.

The facts are that an "ethnic" club will always be an "ethnic" club no matter what the logos are, what name they are playing under, who their sponsors are or who the fans are.

By altering that perception not only will you not attract new fans because they will always identify that club as being ethnic but you are ostracising the established fans of that team.

Who will lose out in the end? The long suffering, dedicated clubs and fans.

For thirty years Australian soccer has lived and breathed off the back of ethnic clubs. These clubs have produced and fostered the talent of players who are now household names throughout the world.

Now Soccer Australia



wants to kill off the name, identity and soul of these teams. When SA should be helping and encouraging them.

There is still no explanation whatsoever to the general public why Melbourne Knights must provide \$200,000 as a fine or bond. Originally it was thought that it was for the crowd 'misbehaviour' at the grand final.

However, it has since been found that SA's security



guards were encouraging fans to run onto the field to share in with the jubilation of the team they have loyally followed. While the ineptness of the security guards at the gate allowed flares into the ground.

So please tell all of the fans of soccer what the fine is for and how a figure of \$200,000 was obtained.

Fans of soccer would also like to know what next? First you forced the clubs to change their names, now you want them to change their logos. Will players have to change their names to Smith, Hill, Perkins etc?

The fact is that the media will support you whether you are a Zelic, a Bosnich, a



David Hill (l) and Neville Wran (r): Are winning few friends but that is not their job.

MARRICKVILLE SOCCER CLUB (The Red Devils)

50th Anniversary Dinner

Saturday August 17, 1996

Canterbury Gardens Racecourse

from 7pm \$50 per head

Scrumptious 3 course dinner, beer, wine, soft drinks

Bookings Ron Royston (02) 9718 1239 (b)

or Club House (02) 9558 5849 (ah)



Atlanta 1996
THE 1992 AGOG

Atlanta Olympic Games Football Tournament



Atlanta 1996
THE 1992 AGOG

Brazil regain some pride

Brazil regained some of its battered soccer pride with a 5-0 rout of Portugal to win the Olympic bronze medal.

Goals by Ronaldinho and Flavio Conceicao inside the first 10 minutes sent Brazil on its way and Bebeto completed the victory by scoring a hat-trick in the second half.

"We came here to try for the gold, that was our objective. It is an honour to win a bronze medal, but it is not what we were here for," Bebeto said.

Stacked with talent, Brazil seemed an overwhelming favourite for the gold medal, but it lost its opening game to underdog Japan and then blew a 3-1 lead in an extra-time 4-3 loss to Nigeria in the semi-finals.

"The bronze medal has the

taste of gold because the Brazilian team played a very nice match today," said coach Mario Zagallo.



"We cannot win all. To know how to lose is difficult, but it is important. To win is easy. Brazil gave an example of that in the game against Nigeria," Zagallo said he would honour his contract, which runs through 1997.

The Brazilians received



Kanu: Ajax and Nigeria, his play was the inspiration for the defeat of Brazil and Argentina on the way to the Africans winning the Olympic Gold Medal.

their bronze medals immediately after the game because they returned home before the final.

The medals were handed out by Joao Havelange, the Brazilian chief of FIFA.

In a typical bronze medal game with little passion, Brazil quickly showed that it took the match more seriously. With only five minutes gone, Juninho sent a superb through ball to Ronaldinho and the new Barcelona striker burst through space to score from 12 metres past Portuguese goalkeeper

Costinha.

Five minutes later, Bebeto's ball beat two defenders and Ze Maria charged along the right flank to send a pinpoint pass across the goal mouth for Flavio Conceicao, who directed it home from short range.

With Portugal offering little resistance, Brazil began displaying the full range of its talent and bombarded Portugal's goal from all directions, with Bebeto the main threat scoring three goals in a sterling second half.

Canberra on track for new season

BY GRAHAM COOKE

Canberra Cosmos will be fielding a team in the forthcoming national soccer league competition, club chairman Paul Murphy said last week.

His statement ended reports that the Cosmos, burdened by \$200,000 of debt, will call it a day after just one season in the country's premier soccer competition.

Earlier last month the Cosmos board gave itself until August 1 to either clear or reschedule the debt, and on Friday Murphy said that work is far enough advanced to give a definite undertaking that the club will continue.

"I'm not pretending we are out of the woods yet — there is some very hard work lying ahead," Murphy said.

"But our corporate appeal is going well, we have had encouraging season ticket sales, our new licensed club will open on August 22 and the ACT Soccer Federation and its member clubs have all promised their support."

He is also buoyed that the former ACT Minister of

Sport, David Lamont will join the board.

"His business experience and contacts are going to be invaluable to us," Murphy said.

"We are also appointing Alan Reis, who had national league experience with the former Canberra team in the 1980s, as our chief executive officer."

Murphy said while nothing had been decided as yet, he was hopeful that ACT League club Canberra Deakin would join Canberra City and Belconnen United as major financial stakeholders in the cosmos.

He stressed there was no money for big-name signings, but Socceroo captain Paul Wade, along with Norman Kelly, Richard Wilson, Lachlan Armstrong and Paul Dee, will all be returning to the club.

"We'll begin training in a couple of weeks and in the meantime anyone from the ACT competition who fancies his chances should get in touch. It's all systems go for our first match against Melbourne Knights in the Johnny Walker Cup on September 7."

BRAZIL FACE PAINFUL INQUEST

Brazil's soccer team will face a long, painful inquest when they return home from the Olympic football tournament without the gold medal in their luggage.

Wednesday's 4-3 defeat against Nigeria, who won with a "golden goal" in sudden-death extra-time after having been 3-1 down, will inevitably lead to speculation over the future of coach Mario Zagallo and many of his players.

Zagallo is also coach of the full national team and could see his dream of a sixth visit to the World Cup finals in 1998 wrecked by a result that will almost certainly be looked on as a catastrophe.

Brazil has won the World Cup four times, including the last one in 1994, but has never taken the Olympic soccer title.

In the capital Brasilia, former national coach Tele Santana said:

"All of Brazil will be feeling this result because

we've never been so close to winning the Olympic gold."

In a much-hyped bid to win the gold, the Brazilian Football Federation spent \$5 million putting together an all-star team dubbed "the other Dream Team."

President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, pressed by reporters over his reaction to the game, politely thanked the team "for the effort they put in." But others were less generous in defeat.

"What we saw yesterday was inconceivable," raged former soccer idol Zico in O Globo newspaper.

"There can be no excuse for a team packed with internationally experienced players ... to be eliminated from an important competition like that."

The Brazilian players, many of whom wept in the dressing room afterwards, admitted they let up after going 3-1 ahead in the first half.



Sunday Olisieh: Another tormentor.

Soccer Sevens draw teams

It is the first weekend in October.

The competition season is over for most clubs, but why does the team have to stop playing?

You don't, you can get away to the holiday city of Coffs Harbour on the NSW north coast. It is semi-tropical, bananas grow profusely.

Both men and women can get away for the Labour Day weekend, competitions will run Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Added to which there is prize money to shoot for.

For the second year Coffs Harbour City United are running their Soccer Sevens. They kicked off with a reasonable 20 teams in 1995.

This number, on current registrations, will be easily topped.

There is a limit of sorts. 32 teams for men, 12 for women. Entry fee \$150 for each men's team & \$100 for women's teams.

Two 13 minute halves with a one minute turn-around and unlimited interchanges is what you'll be involved with.

Coffs Harbour has plenty of accommodation and the Visitors Information Bureau is primed ready to assist all teams with this necessary requirement.

See the advertisement on this page in order to book your spot in this exciting event. Paul Israel is standing by.

COFFS HARBOUR CITY UNITED SOCCER SEVENS

October 5, 6, 7
MAJOR PRIZES!

Team Nomination Fee:

Men \$150

Women \$100

Seven players on field, unlimited interchanges
2 x 13 minutes halves

Contact: Paul Israel

phone or fax: 066 527721

or

COFFS HARBOUR CITY UNITED SC
PO Box 1405

COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
White Eagle	13	9	0	4	48	24	27
Devonport	13	7	4	2	44	24	25
Olympia	13	8	1	4	26	28	25
Croatia Glenorchy	13	7	2	4	31	27	23
Hobart Juventus	12	6	2	4	31	27	20
Launceston Juv	12	6	2	4	24	21	20
Caledonian	12	3	5	4	25	27	14
Riverside Olympic	13	4	2	7	26	31	14
South Hobart	12	3	2	7	21	29	11
Launceston	13	0	0	13	11	49	0

TASMANIA WREST POINT STATE LEAGUE

Caledonians	3	Glenorchy	3
Hobart Juventus	3	Launceston	1
White Eagle	2	Launceston Juv	0
Olympia	3	South Hobart	2

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD KREIDER

Eddie Lennie Misses Olympic Final

The rise and rise of west Australian referee Eddie Lennie almost came to an astonishing crescendo at the Atlanta Olympics last weekend when he nearly received the nod to control the Olympic football final between Nigeria and Argentina.

It was eventually decided an Italian Serie A official



would be chosen ahead of our own Ericsson Cup Referee of the Year. It was either him or me "said Lennie just prior to leaving the Olympic village. "It was disappointing not to get the call, but I have no complaints since it has been a fantastic fortnight and I've been in the best company you could possibly wish for"

Lennie's first assignment was the Chana v Korea game in Washington which finished 1-1.

His next was his very first womens game when Norway defeated West Germany 3-2 in Birmingham. "It was a very different experience, but was still of a high standard and very fast" said Lennie His final "middle" was the mens USA v Portugal clash in Atlanta which ended 1-1 in front of a crowd of 60,000 before wrapping up his



was receiving coaching advice by the Australian referees during the time he ran three lines.

The hot and humid climate took its toll on referees and players alike, but Lennie was fortunate he lives in similar conditions.

"The daily average temperature was in the nineties and it was very humid. It did affect some of us, but thankfully it was no problem for me "said Lennie who did not attend the final because of other business commitments.

He is expected back in Australia on August 25th to prepare for his third Ericsson Cup, season

"The referees body were deciding on the officials for this coming season last weekend, and I am quite confident I will be selected because one official recently commented that it is highly unlikely anybody would consider dropping the referee of the year."



involvement with a couple of 4th official positings .

The Referees organising committee then reduced the number of referees and assistant referees from an original 32 to 17 for the final stages of which Lennie was an inclusion. A clear indication of the respect world football officialdom has for the standard of Australian refereeing came when it was revealed the other Oceania representative Lencie Fred



Ivan Kelic: Will he be tempted back from Singapore to go for Glory?

OLYMPIC IN SHOCK CUP VICTORY

Premier League battlers Olympic Kingsway proved yet again that elimination cup competitions can be a different ball game, when they stunned Perth 1-0 in the third round of the soccer West Coast Cup last Saturday at their Kingsway Reserve ground.

Sadly, it was a match devoid of the usual passion that is normally associated with cup clashes.

The only excitement being the courageous diving header in the 52nd minute by Michael Ortin which proved to be the match winning goal.

Such was the battle for supremacy in midfield, there were only two strikes on goal in the first half, both which went the way of the visitors.

The first fell to Vince Tana in the 33rd minute who tried his luck with a 30 metre shot

that sailed a metre over the top of Peter Evans cross-bar, and a free-kick three minutes later that the custodian saved well after he initially conceded the infringement for time-wasting.

Olympic looked a more determined unit after the break and were rewarded with the opening goal when a Ricky Davis free-kick eluded a pack of players including goalkeeper Vince Matassa, but found Ortin waiting on the back post to force a header home.

Fomer St George midfielder Alan Pottier had Perth's best chances to equalise. The first came in the 64th minute when he miskicked a shot when left with only Evans to beat, and in the 88th minute when a tricky strike from Tony Giangulio slipped out of the "keepers hands to the feet of Pottier who could not believe his luck as he sliced his shot wide with the goal at his mercy.

OWN GOAL SENDS SPEARWOOD THROUGH

Defending D'Orsogna Cup holder Spearwood Dalmatinac moved into the next round of the Centenary Cup with a 1-0 victory over Floreat Athena in a physical encounter that contained very few chances at Dalmatinac Park.

With the D'Orsogna Cup now in mothballs Soccer West Coast, the Premier League's controlling body, has introduced a special knock-out trophy for the centenary year or until another long term major sponsor is found.

The winning goal came in the 37th minute of play through Spearwood forward Michael Mirco whose long range effort on goal spun off Floreat defender Sean Lynch and into the net, completely wrong footing goalkeeper John Xigas.

The home side came close to opening the scoring in the ninth minute through a Derek Combe free-kick that Paul Blakeley headed goalwards, Xigas denied the tall sweeper by pushing the ball onto the woodwork.

Floreat's closest opportunities to score came minutes into the second-half through Marc Wingell who miskicked an easy chance and John Carbone also from close range, and in the 81st minute when Taki Nicolaidis forced Robert Zabica to make a superb save.

Meanwhile, in the Sunday match at the Gwelup Centre, Western Knights pulled off the other shock result of the weekend, by downing last years D'orsogna Cup finalists Inglewood Falcons 3-2 with Ray Kastropil enhancing his chances of a possible call up for Perth Glory by netting a quality hat-trick.

After Falcons forward John Hunter had a glancing header cleared off the line in the 15th minute, Kastropil opened the scoring for the Knights in the 40th minute when he guided home a Gerry Christie cross.

It was 2-0 in the 81st minute when Kastropil converted a penalty after young defender Paul Di Carlo handled the ball, but three minutes further on Inglewood reduced the deficit with a penalty of their own after Gino Giorgi handballed in the area.

Three minutes into stoppage time the Inglewood side forced the game into golden goal extra-time when substitute Paul Wormley scrambled the ball over the line after it was twice blocked by goalkeeper Richard Gaiton.

Extra-time was only four

minutes old before Kastropil cleverly lobbed the ball over Ron More to send the league strugglers into the quarter-finals.

The remaining third round fixtures could not be played due to pools commitments, but will be played later this month.

They are Sorrento V Caledonian, Balga V Perth City and Stirling Macedonia V Morley Windmills which will be of interest since there are two former Stirling players now in a Morley shirt-Ian Cornthwaite and Carl McDarby.



Vince Mattassa: Will be hoping to be Perth Glory's goalkeeper in the Ericsson Cup.

SOCCER WEST COAST CENTENARY CUP

Spearwood Dalmatinac	1	Floreat Athena	0
Olympic Kingsway	1	Perth SC	0
Western Knights	3	Inglewood Falcons	2

DIVISION ONE

Joondalup City	5	Dianella WE	1
Balcatta	2	Bassendean Cale	1
Cockburn United	0	Fremantle City	4
North Lake Aspanol	0	Southside United	1
Ashfield-Bunbury	4	Morley Windmills	4
Perth City	0	Rockingham City	2

DIVISION TWO

Stirling Varddar	3	Western Yugal	1
Armada Park	0	Melville Corinthians	1
Balga	3	University	2
Queens Park	0	Wanneroo City	0

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bayswater	15	12	1	2	38	10	37
Inglewood	15	11	2	2	29	14	35
Stirling	15	10	1	4	29	20	31
Spearwood	15	9	1	5	26	22	28
Perth SC	15	8	3	4	28	19	27
Floreat	15	4	6	5	23	26	18
Sorrento	15	3	3	9	15	22	12
Western K	15	3	3	9	18	25	12
Swan IC	15	2	2	11	15	36	8
Olympic	15	1	2	12	15	42	5

DIVISION ONE

Joondalup	16	11	5	0	44	15	38
Fremantle	16	11	3	2	39	22	36
Morley	16	9	2	5	49	31	29
Southside	16	8	2	6	29	26	26
Dianella WE	16	7	4	5	34	29	25
PerthCity	16	7	3	5	29	20	24
Ashfield	16	7	2	7	32	35	23
Rockingham	16	5	5	6	23	25	20
Balcatta	16	5	4	7	24	29	19
Bassendean	16	4	4	8	27	31	16
North Lake	16	3	2	11	21	46	11
Cockburn U	16	1	0	15	15	57	3

LEADING SCORERS

19	Robert Perruzza	Bayswater
10	Peter Coci	Perth
9	Peter Murphy	Stirling
8	Vas Kalogeracos	Floreat
7	Neil Blunt	Sorrento
7	Rob Milevski	Stirling
7	Trim Morgan	W/Knights
7	Eugen Singeorzan	W/Knights



QUEENSLAND

XXXX League



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION Perry Park, Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006 Phone: (07) 3252-5327 Fax: (07) 3252-1137

Farina Cleans up at end of season Awards

Strikers scoring sensation Frank Farina has capped off a superb Ericsson Cup season, by making a clean sweep of the major prizes at the Hyundai Strikers Awards Night held last week.

Farina was voted the Players Player of the Year, the Supporters Smallgoods Footballer of the Year.

Farina's contribution to the team last season was outstanding, his vast overseas and international experience proving invaluable to a side seeking its first ever finals berth.

The gutsy goal getter smashed the Strikers goal scoring record, finding the net on 19 occasions during the regular season, and capping off the season with a world-class goal in the semi-final



Frank Farina: A fitting reward to climax a superb season.

against Sydney United.

Farina proved an overwhelming choice as the Players Player and Supporters Player of the Year, but only just shaded New Zealand International Chris Zoricich and utility player Craig Williams to take out the Footballer of the Year award.

"I am very honoured to be held in such high regard by the players and the supporters of the Strikers," Farina said.

"We had an extremely successful season, due largely to our supporters, and I think it was definitely a season on which we can build upon.

"I know that there will be plenty more for supporters to cheer about come next season."

LIONS ARE PREMIER CHAMPS!

Brisbane Lions accomplished their gold medal dream to take out the Fourx League premiership with a resounding 2-nil win over Brisbane City at Spencer Park on Sunday.

Lions, spearheaded by skipper Frank Mengotti and goal scoring whiz Warren Allen, were rarely tested by a disappointing Brisbane City, who have only themselves to blame for not taking the title following a disastrous second round.

Brisbane City crashed badly in the second round after establishing a massive eleven point lead at the top of the table and ended the season in third place on goal difference after Rochdale's drew level on points following their 9-1 thumping over Grange Thistle.

And in the other critical match to resolve the final five, Taringa Rovers thrashed Beenleigh 5-1 to clinch a semi final berth.

Brisbane Lions' coach Miron Bleiberg has set his players two further goals to cap off a remarkable year after the club started the season poorly.

Lions have the right blend of quality, youth and experience to equal their 1991 feat when they won the premiership-grand final

double. Bleiberg, who has been at



the helm of Brisbane Lions for a season and a half, blamed himself for the club's poor start to the season, but is now anxiously awaiting the Grand Final and the long awaited clash against the Brisbane Strikers in the Johnnie Walker Cup.

Bleiberg was under



extreme pressure early in the season when it was rumoured his position was in jeopardy, but few people were aware of the reasons for Lions' slow start.

"We struggled in the first part of the season, but it was my fault," Bleiberg said.

"My mother died and I had to return to Israel and I missed the entire pre-season."

Under Bleiberg's expert tuition, Lions soon came good and went 16 games (15 wins and one draw)

undefeated to take the title.

Allen, Lions' potent striker, proved the hero on the day by netting a double, the first on 34 minutes when Brisbane City defender Warren Cooley made an horrific blunder allowing Allen to intercept a poorly timed pass and beat two defenders for the game breaker.

The goal proved an enormous confidence booster for the visitors who only had to draw to capture the premiership.

Allen's second successful strike came midway through the second half when fullback David Lonsdale struck a long ball from well within his own half to Allen who again easily rounded two defenders to beat city keeper Danny Duke.

Bleiberg was surprised at the ease of Lions' victory over Brisbane City, who have been bitter rivals since the two sides played together in the national league in the late 70's.

"It was a bit too easy and I expected more," Bleiberg said.

"There are three ingredients to winning. You play for yourself, your club and your coach.

"But they looked to be lacking in spirit after their coach (Peter Tokesi) was named assistant coach of the Brisbane Strikers during the week.

"The script just went our way."

Bleiberg is eagerly awaiting the clash with the Strikers as he feels players in the local competition have been ignored by the Strikers in the last three years.

"We're looking forward



Kevin Meacock: Lions striker has bagged 13 goals this season.

to the Strikers' game," he said.

"The boys want to prove themselves, but more importantly, I'll be telling them they will be

representing every fourx League club as the Strikers have hardly taken a player from this league in the last three years."

THIS WEEKS SEMI-FINAL MATCHES

DOUBLE HEADER - PERRY PARK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

12:30pm — Wynnum District v Taringa Rovers — Qualifying Semi-Final.

2:30pm — Rochdale Rovers v Brisbane City — Preliminary Semi-Final.

QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

Nerang SC	2	Eastern Suburbs	1
Pine Rivers Utd	1	Wynnum District	0
Coalstars	2	North Star	1
Beenleigh	1	Taringa Rovers	5
Brisbane City	0	Brisbane Lions	2
Rochdale Rovers	9	Grange Thistle	0

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Brisbane Lions	22	17	2	3	54	24	53
Rochdale Rovers	22	14	5	3	77	24	47
Brisbane City	22	15	2	5	53	21	47
Wynnum District	22	11	4	7	39	30	37
Taringa Rovers	22	11	3	8	55	33	36
Beenleigh	22	11	3	8	28	33	36
Pine Rivers Utd	22	9	1	12	39	46	28
Nerang Soccer Club	22	8	3	11	38	46	27
Coalstars	22	7	3	12	31	37	24
Grange Thistle	22	6	3	13	23	71	21
Eastern Suburbs	22	4	4	14	28	45	16
North Star	22	2	1	19	19	74	7

DIVISION TWO

Albany Creek Excelsior	4	Willowburn	0
Acacia Ridge	3	The Gap	4
Capalaba S & R	7	Inala City Utd	2
Olympic United	4	Logan City Kings	1
Mount Gravatt	3	Ipswich St Helens U	1
St Albans	4	Rocklea United	0

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Olympic United	22	15	4	3	61	33	49
Rocklea United	22	15	3	4	52	28	48
St Albans	22	12	3	7	50	34	39
Mount Gravatt	22	9	8	5	48	38	35
Inala City Utd	22	11	1	10	46	48	34
Albany Creek Exc	22	9	5	8	49	49	32
The Gap	22	9	4	9	36	42	31
Acacia Ridge	22	7	5	10	40	45	26
Capalaba S & Rec	22	5	8	9	47	49	23
Logan City Kings	22	5	5	12	35	40	20
Willowburn	22	4	6	12	26	48	18
Ipswich St Helens Utd	22	4	2	16	19	55	14

DIVISION THREE

Western Suburbs	0	Uni of Qld	3
Slacks Creek	0	Redlands United	1
Darra United	5	Clairvaux SC Inc	0
Newmarket	1	Latrobe Athletic	1
Mitchelton	5	Goodna & Districts	0
Souths United	3	Annerley Recreation	2

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Slacks Creek	21	17	2	2	70	11	53
Mitchelton	21	16	1	4	77	21	49
Newmarket	21	14	3	4	42	20	45
Souths United	21	10	6	5	46	26	36
Redlands United	21	10	3	8	42	27	33
University of QLD	21	9	3	9	42	35	30
Darra United	21	8	6	7	45	39	30
Goodna & Districts	21	7	7	7	29	29	28
Annerley Recreation	21	5	5	11	34	46	20
Latrobe Athletic	21	5	5	11	43	60	20
Clairvaux SC Inc	21	2	1	18	26	81	7
Western Suburbs	21	2	0	19	12	113	6

DIVISION FOUR

Browns Plains	1	Greenbank	0
Southside Eagles	4	Samford	0
Ipswich City	0	South Star	5
Moggill United	8	Pine Hills	0
Brothers United	2	Bayside United	2
North Pine United	6	Redcliffe City	3

TABLES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
South Star	21	16	2	3	65	22	50
Moggill United	21	16	1	4	63	12	49
Bayside United	21	14	2	5	56	30	44
Southside Eagles	21	13	4	4	45	22	43
Brothers United	21	12	3	6	59	41	39
North Pine United	21	12	2	7	48	35	38
Redcliffe City	21	9	5	7	56	50	32
Samford	21	7	3	11	38	34	24
Pine Hills	21	5	1	15	24	68	16



BEARS-THE BEST!

NBN SOCCER LEAGUE

1996 FINAL SERIES

Saturday, August 3 1996

ELIMINATION FINAL (4TH v 5TH)

Macquarie Field (Speers Point)

1ST GRADE

Wallsend Red Devils.....1 Deloraine Eagles.....2

RESERVE GRADE

Deloraine Eagles.....0 Westy Workers B'ells.....2

U18's

Weston Workers Bears.....2 Hamilton Warriors.....0

Sunday, August 4 1996

QUALIFYING FINAL (2ND v 3RD)

Lisle Carr Oval (Whitebridge)

1ST GRADE

Highfield Wolves.....1 Hamilton Warriors.....1

(Penalties Highfields Wolves 2 Hamilton Warriors 4)

RESERVE GRADE

Hamilton Warriors.....1 Weston Workers Bears.....1

(Penalties Hamilton Warriors 3 Weston Workers Bears 5)

U18's

Highfields Wolves.....1 Wallsend Red Devils.....1

(Penalties Highfields Wolves 3 Wallsend Red Devils 4)

TOOHEYS 2ND DIVISION

FINAL SERIES

Saturday, August 3 1996

ELIMINATION FINAL (4 v 5)

Blacksmiths Oval (Swansea)

1ST GRADE

Budgewoi Budgies.....1 Toronto Awaba.....0

RESERVE GRADE

South Cardiff.....2 Manning Mustangs.....3

Sunday, August 4 1996

QUALIFYING FINAL (2 v 3)

Blacksmiths Oval (Swansea)

1ST GRADE

Belmont Swansea.....0 South Cardiff Gunners.....1

RESERVE GRADE

Toronto Awaba.....1 Dudley/Redland.....0

19's

Manning Mustangs.....2 Toronto Awaba.....3

BY DANE SKAFTE

Weston Workers Bears have shown that they are an outstanding side after their 2-0 win over the Highfield's Wolves at Weston Park last Sunday.

Both sides had so much to prove going into the final round of the NBN competition before the semi-finals get under way this weekend.

The Bears showed plenty of commitment against the Wolves dominating the majority of the game with strikers Ian Tressidder and Neville Smith causing plenty of problems for the Wolves defence. Weston took the lead after only seven minutes with a good run by Neville Smith who knocked the ball across from the left with the Highfields keeper Craig Shanko getting a bad bounce with the ball going into the net and the keeper left stranded.

Midway through the first half Highfields had their best opportunity when Todd McManus pounced on a ball and his low kick was cleared off the line by Weston defender Jamie Wile. Two minutes later Weston continued to push forward after a shot by Craig Beckett was knocked away by the Wolves defence.

Highfields kept pushing the ball around for an equaliser and were unlucky not to have scored after Mick Williams's attempt at goals was cleared away by Anthony Richards.

The Bears went further ahead just on the half time break when Ian Tressidder knocked the ball home after a good cross by Anthony Beckett.

Weston had several chances midway through the second half but only poor finishing and several good saves by Shanko kept the score at 2-0.

Weston's coach Keith

Harris said after the match "to beat a side like Highfields 2-0 was a good result, it was a whole team effort today, the boys played extremely well and the final result indicated this. I was pleased with the way Anthony Richards and Dean Howard played, the majority of our young team have been playing together for the past eight years and goalkeeper Peter Oberhauser is one of the best keepers I've seen for a long time." He concluded.

Weston striker Ian Tressidder finished equal leading goalscorer with Highfield's Bret MacAuley and Edgeworth's Danny Gordon with fifteen goals.

Tressidder has been happy with his form this season "I knew I had fourteen goals going into today's game, but I continued to focus on the importance of this match. Earlier during this season it was a two-way battle with team mate Justin Kavanagh

but after he got injured a fortnight ago I just kept taking my chances to score." Tressidder said.

A disappointed Wolves coach Steve Bland agreed that Weston were a more physical side than his team today "I thought we created chances

and we battled away, full credit must go to Weston, they deserve to win as well as taking out the minor premiership.

The boys will now regroup and focus on next week's game against Hamilton on Sunday, Bland said."



Michael Nachakoski: Highfields Wolves utility player.



Ralph Maier: Axed by Newcastle Breakers.

NNSW Annual Awards

BY DANE SKAFTE

The Northern New South Wales Soccer Federation will hold their annual awards presentation night on Monday August 19 commencing at 7.00pm.

This year's awards will be held again at the quarterdeck restaurant at the Belmont 16ft sailing club.

The evening will be hosted by well known sports media personality Ross Allan from radio station 2HD.

There will be several outstanding awards presented on the evening and officials from Soccer Australia, Soccer NSW and Department of Sport and Recreation will attend.

Stalwart Newcastle Breakers defender, Ralph Maier has been axed from the club and has admitted that he would not be playing with the Breakers in the 1996-97 Ericsson Cup Competition.

Maier who has played over 270 games for Newcastle KB United, Adamstown Rosebud, and Newcastle Breakers in the national league agreed that he was very disappointed that he was no longer required by the club.

"I was told that they wanted to work with the younger guys in the club and I respect that decision "I will now start looking for a coaching position within the Northern New South Wales Soccer Federation."

The 32 year old was a member of the 1982-83

Australian Youth team and continued his duties with the under 23 national squad a year later.

Maier believed that he had played well enough last season, in the Ericsson Cup, to hold his position for this year.

Breakers publicity officer Shane Johnson said it was

LIST OF AWARDS

1. NBN PLAYER OF THE YEAR (3 NOMINEES)

DANNY BURT of Deloraine Eagles
BENN LANE of Hamilton Warriors
IAN TRESSIDDER of Weston Bears

2. TOOHEYS COACH OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED ON THE EVENING

3. IEA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED ON THE EVENING

4. CROSBIE WARREN 7 SINCLAIR ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED ON THE EVENING

5. 2HD LEADING GOALSCORER OF THE YEAR

1ST DIVISION — BRETT MACAULAY of Highfields Wolves
(15 GOALS EACH) — IAN TRESSIDDER of Weston Bears
— DANNY GORDON of Deloraine Eagles
2ND DIVISION — BERNARD RYAN of Dudley-Redhead
(30 GOALS)

disappointing to let Maier go.

"It has been a honour to have him play with the club but John (Kosmina) has plans to work with the youth in the team and unfortunately Ralph didn't fit in with John's selection."

Newcastle Breakers pre-season training got underway yesterday (Monday) at Macquarie Field, Speers Point.

The Breakers will play their first home game against West Adelaide on Friday October 11 with a 7.30pm kickoff.



John Kosmina: Is promoting youngsters into the Breakers Ericsson Cup team.

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

BY PHIL MURPHY

A second-half goal from striker Rod Patterson gave Bulli a priceless 1-0 victory over Port Kembla in Sunday's match of the round at Ball's Paddock.

In a controversial game, Port Kembla were unlucky to be denied a goal in the first half and Bulli had to survive a barrage from the visitors over the final 20 minutes.

Fullback Dominic Cario appeared to have put Port Kembla ahead after a quickly taken free kick but a linesman had his flag up for offside.

Bulli grabbed the winner 14 minutes into the second half when Warren Baker whipped the ball over from the right, Grant Eadie played it square and Patterson headed past goalkeeper Daniel Beltrame.

That goal sparked a protest from Port Kembla players and supporters and the re-start was delayed.

Bulli battled against the odds to hold onto the three points.

Goalkeeper Iain Gardiner had to be replaced with an injury while three other players finished the game limping.

Both teams showed plenty of commitment and the pace of the game was always hectic.

Bulli coach John Frew said after the final whistle his players showed great commitment but he would have problems for Saturday's game away to Northern United.

Midfielder Ian Robinson would be suspended for two games after being booked on Sunday.

Balgownie caused the upset of the round, pulling off a 1-0 home win over leaders Lysaghts on Friday.

Josh Faulks scored Balgownie's goal to keep them in the hunt for fourth place.

With Port Kembla having lost, things remain unchanged at the top and Lysaghts coach Casey de Bruin wasn't unduly concerned about the defeat.

He said his team played well but just couldn't find the net.

"If we had played badly I would have been upset with that result," De Bruin said.

"That certainly wasn't the case and I think we will be back in business against Cringila on Saturday.

Rade Stefanovski was the toast of team-mates after scoring the only goal of the game against Northern United on Saturday night.

Before that win, Cringila had scored just once in seven outings and that was from the penalty spot.

Stefanovski, who has played in the national league with Wollongong City, grabbed his goal with eight minutes to go.

On Saturday afternoon, Dapto provided new coach Stuart Beedie with his first victory when they got home 2-1 against West-Figtree at Graham Park. Frank Vlaovic had the visitors a goal up at halftime then Frank Barilla equalised with a floating cross from the left.

Fullback Mark Troth deflected the ball into his own net for Dapto's winner. Beedie took over at Dapto after former boss Barney King resigned two weeks ago.

He said he had been happy with the way his team defended but there were rough edges he wanted smoothed out for this weekend.

In the other two games, Fernhill upset third-placed Wollongong Olympic 2-0 away from home, Blake Montgomery and Scott Nicholls getting the goals, while Coniston had a 3-0 home win against bottom side Westderra.

Points: Lysaghts 43, Port Kembla 34, Wollongong Olympic 31, Bulli 26, Fernhill 23, Balgownie 22, Dapto 21, Cringila 21, Coniston 20, West-Figtree 18, Northern United 17, Westderra 12.

Weekend Draw: Westderra v Balgownie, Lysaghts v Cringila, Northern United v Bulli, Port Kembla v Fernhill, Dapto v Coniston and West-Figtree v Wollongong Olympic.



SUPER LEAGUE

	1st	U/21
Bonnyrigg WE v Warringah Dolphins	1-2	1-1
Blacktown city v Macarthur Rams	1-2	1-2
Central Coast v Parramatta Eagles	1-1	1-4
Sutherland Sharks v Illawarra Lions	2-2	*
Bankstown city v Adamstown Rosebud	2-2	1-5
Leichhardt Tigers v St George Saints	1-1	0-1
Rockdale city Suns v Canterbury Berries	1-2	0-4
*Forfeit by Illawarra		

DIVISION ONE

	1st	U/21	U/18
Penrith Panthers v Bathurst '75	1-5	4-1	2-0
Stanmore Hawks v Sydney Cosmos	1-2	1-2	1-4
Auburn Utd v Mt Druitt Town Rangers	5-1	3-0	1-3
Ryde City v Dulwich Hill	7-0	9-0	2-2
Mt Pritchard v Belmore Hercules	0-2	5-0	P/P
Hills United v Fairfield Bulls	1-0	2-0	2-1
Sthn Minotaur v West Wanderers	3-5	1-0	4-1

DIVISION TWO

	1st	U/21	U/18
University of NSW v Granville G/Island	1-1	2-1	N/A
Parramatta City v Concord Juniors	1-4	2-2	3-1
Sydney Districts v Greystanes	1-0	0-1	0-3
Prairiewood United v Granville G/Island	1-3	12-2	3-1
Alexandria Warriors v Liverpool City	0-0	1-0	3-0
Trasandinos v Hurstville	0-1	2-1	2-0
AC United v University of NSW	0-1	0-2	2-2

DIVISION THREE

	1st	2nd
Prospect United v Moorebank Sports	2-1	2-1
Moorebank Sports v The Wanderers	P/P	5-1
Earlwood Hermes v White City	2-4	1-4
Gladesville United v Hawkesbury City	2-0	2-0
Colo Colo v Sporting SCC	3-3	2-0
St Johns Park v Prospect United	2-1	1-7
Hakoah v Glebe Wanderers	0-2	1-5

DIVISION FOUR

	1st	2nd
Marrickville Reds v Sydney University	0-0	3-1
CSI Schofield v Angels Liverpool United	3-1	2-1
Sydney University v Arncliffe Scots	1-3	0-1
Fairfield Kings v St Josephs	5-1	3-1
Fraser Park v Springwood	5-0	0-0
Balmain v Marrickville Reds	2-2	0-3
Canley Vale v Lithgow Workmen	3-5	3-0

DIVISION FIVE

	1st	2nd
Kosciusko v Camden	2-0	0-1
AVA United v Mascot Kings	1-8	0-8
United Eagles v Gladesville Hornsby	0-0	1-5
Maroubra United v AVA United	16-2	2-2
Gladesville Hornsby v Nepean Districts	0-5	0-6
Camden v United Eagles	0-1	2-0
Kosciusko v Mascot Kings	5-1	2-4

DIVISION SIX

	1st	2nd
Queens Park v NSW Police	3-1	0-3
Bossy v UWS Macarthur	2-2	3-1
Homenetmen	1-3	0-2

DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S

	1st	2nd
St George v Blacktown	6-0	9-1
NSW ITC v Sutherland	2-0	N/A
NNSW/ITC v St George	1-0	N/A
Blacktown v UWS Macarthur	1-1	0-1
NSW ITC/Penrith v Macquarie Dist.	7-0	2-3

DIVISION TWO

	1st	2nd
Moorebank 1 v Macarthur 1	6-0	*
St George v Penrith		
Macarthur 1 v Liverpool Olympic	1-1	
Bathurst v Moorebank 2	6-0	
Sydney United	1-5	
Sydney Cosmos	2-1	
Illawarra Lions v University of NSW	2-0	
Macarthur 2 v Moorebank 1	0-17	
*Forfeit to St George		

Demons on the horns of a dilemma

BY BOB BROOKS

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 1
MACARTHUR RAMS 2

The demise of Blacktown City Demons continued on Saturday night at the Gabbie Stadium in blustery conditions.

Macarthur Rams put the Demons to the sword with a deserved 2-1 victory, to complete the double.

The team from Campbelltown, newcomers to the top echelon of soccer competition in NSW and with a team of youngsters, showed their elite colleagues how to finish off chances.

Blacktown got into their opponents goal area often enough but were denied reward by an on form David Hayes in goal and by off target shooting.

In the first minute, a low slung corner from the left was headed off the line by a well placed Macarthur defender. The same happened again in the 18th as Glenn Geppert picked up a short corner and whipped the ball into the middle.

Playing with the fierce wind Blacktown fired in a series of long powerful shots but they all went to waste.

After sustained early dominance by the Demons, Macarthur gradually found their stride and confidence. Eddie Clune got a shot in at the 22nd minute mark which was competently dealt with by Dragan Papovae in the home side's goal.

A piece of individual set piece brilliance by Scott Baillie opened the score sheet in the 32nd. The Demons were awarded a free kick 30 metres out. All the Macarthur team took up defensive positions including a six man wall.

Baillie hit to their left, round the edge and found the corner of the net despite Hayes' despairing dive.

Just three minutes before half time Macarthur drew level. One of their four ex-Demon players provided the chance. Steve Sweeney raided right and put over a precise cross to the far side where Benn Green was on hand to volley into the roof of the net.

Nine minutes into the second stanza the visitors went into the lead. Again it was Green who turned opportunity into triumph as he slipped a neat chance in by the post.

Three minutes later Blacktown's plight grew worse as Jeff Doyle received his marching orders for his second yellow card. The second was for a late tackle

which had all the hallmarks of frustration.

The miss of the night fell to the promising youngster Jay Anderson.

The Demon had an open goal to put the ball in from an excellent Boudaheer through pass but amazingly, for such a deadly finisher, he hooked it over the top in the dying minutes.



David Hayes: Denied the Demons attack.

NSW SOCCER
FEDERATION
SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 25

SATURDAY AUGUST 10

Canterbury Marrickville v Sutherland Sharks
Serbian Centre, 6pm

SUNDAY AUGUST 11

Adamstown Rosebud v Bonnyrigg WE
Adamstown Oval, 3pm

St George Saints v Bankstown City Lions
St George Stadium, 3pm

Illawarra Lions v Leichhardt Tigers
Ian McLellan Park, 3pm

Parramatta Eagles v Rockdale City Suns
Melita Stadium, 3pm

Macarthur Rams v Central Coast
Lynwood Park, 3pm

Warringah Dolphins v Blacktown City Demons
Cromer Park, 3pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE

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SUPER LEAGUE
FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramatta Eagles	10	6	4	0	15	6	22
St George Saints	10	6	3	1	22	9	21
Sutherland Sharks	10	5	4	1	14	8	19
Illawarra Lions	10	6	1	3	20	17	19
Canterbury Berries	11	4	4	3	10	11	16
Bankstown City	10	4	3	3	17	20	15
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	10	4	2	4	17	13	14
Leichhardt Tigers	10	3	5	2	14	15	14
Macarthur Rams	11	4	1	6	11	11	13
Warringah Dolphin	11	2	4	5	11	15	10
Blacktown city	10	2	3	5	16	16	9
Rockdale City Sun	10	2	3	5	14	17	9
Adamstown Rosebud	10	2	3	5	11	21	9
Central Coast	11	0	4	7	9	22	4

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramatta Eagles	10	9	1	0	33	8	26
Sutherland Sharks	10	8	1	1	21	2	25
Macarthur Rams	11	8	1	2	21	9	25
St George Saints	10	7	1	2	30	8	22
Blacktown City	10	6	1	3	27	15	19
Adamstown Rosebud	10	5	0	5	25	24	15
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	10	4	3	3	17	16	15
Canterbury Berries	11	4	2	5	31	28	14
Warringah Dolphin	11	3	3	5	17	19	12
Leichhardt Tigers	10	2	2	6	9	18	8
Rockdale City Sun	10	2	1	7	13	22	7
Central Coast	10	1	2	7	9	25	5
Bankstown City	9	1	2	6	8	28	5
Illawarra Lions	10	0	2	8	6	45	2

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE
FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sydney Cosmos	21	13	6	2	47	22	45
Ryde City	22	10	8	4	41	18	38
Belmore Hercules	22	10	8	4	52	30	38
Hills United	22	11	4	7	47	29	37
Bathurst '75	21	9	8	4	33	22	35
Auburn United	21	10	5	6	55	55	35
Penrith Panthers	21	9	5	7	42	39	32
West Wanderers	22	7	5	10	33	42	26
Dulwich Hill	21	6	4	11	23	40	22
Stanmore Hawks	21	5	6	10	30	38	21
Fairfield Bulls	20	5	5	10	29	42	20
Mt Druitt Town	21	5	5	11	25	60	20
Mt Pritchard	21	3	6	12	22	38	15

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO
FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hurstville	20	11	5	4	40	22	38
Greystanes	19	11	4	4	39	20	37
Concord Juniors	19	10	5	4	45	21	35
Sydney District	19	10	5	4	30	23	35
Alexandria Warrior	19	9	5	5	42	26	32
Trasandinos	19	8	4	7	23	29	28
Parramatta city	19	8	5	8	23	26	23
AC United	19	5	6	8	21	28	21
Uni of NSW	19	3	11	5	31	25	20
Liverpool city	20	5	5	10	31	33	20
Prairiewood	19	3	6	10	16	34	15
Granville G/Isld	19	2	3	14	21	75	9

DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S
FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
NNSW ITC	18	14	3	1	52	11	41.45
Sydney Cosmos	17	12	1	4	49	18	31.37
Marconi SC	17	11	3	3	47	17	30.36
NSW ITC/Penrith	16	10	2	4	43	19	24.32
St George	17	8	4	5	45	25	20.28
Sutherland Shire	17	7	3	7	19	25	-6.24
UWS Macarthur	18	6	5	7	23	29	-6.23
Gladesville Raven	18	3	4	11	16	50	-34.13
Blacktown City	18	1	2	15	11	55	-44.5
Macquarie Dist	18	1	1	16	14	70	-56.4





KAZUYOSHI
"King Kazu"
MIURA
VERDY
KAWASAKI
& JAPAN

BACK ROW: (L-R): Joe Spiteri President, Tony ?, ?, Sam Vella (OAM), Charly Vella, ?, Charly Bartolo.
FRONT ROW (L-R): Joe Agius, Ted Agius, Tony Spiteri, Charly ?, Tony ?, Charly Scicluna.

Melita SFC 1953

Commonwealth Bank & Schools

BILL TURNER CUP

QUEENSLAND RESULTS

ROUND 5: Kirwan 3 Tully 1; Biloela 5 Mackay 0; Bundaberg 2 Caloundra 1; Nudgee College 8 Clontarf Beach 0; St Josephs Stanthorpe 2; Stanthorpe State 1; Bremer 2-5 The Gap 2-4; Windaroo Valley 4 Merrimac 0.

AREA FINALS: AREA 1: Kirwan (Townsville) v Bilora — AREA 2: Bundaberg v Nudgee College — AREA 3: St Josephs Stanthorpe v Bremer (Ipswich) — AREA 4: Windaroo Valley v Park Ridge/Alexandra Hills.

AREA FINALS
Duval 2 Kadina 1, Dubbo 6

Parkes 0, Edmund Rice 3 Warrawong 1.

PRE-QUARTER FINALS
Holy Cross College 1 Lisarow 0, Chris Bros Lewisham 1 Kirrawee 0, Pat Bros Fairfield 1 Pat Bros Blacktown 0.

WORLD RESULTS

POLAND FIRST DIVISION

Gornik Zabrze	2	Legia Warsaw	3
Ruch Chorzow	3	Odra Wodzislaw	2
Polonia Warsaw	2	Lech Poznan	1
Stomil Olsztyn	2	Slask Wroclaw	0
Hutnik Krakow	2	Wisla Krakow	0
LKS Lodz	1	Widzew Lodz	1
Rakow Czestochowa	0	Amica Wronki	1
GKS Belchatow	1	Sokol Tychy	3
Zaglebie Lubin	4	GKS Katowice	4

TABLE

Sokol Tychy	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Amica Wronki	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
GKS Katowice	2	1	1	0	6	5	4
Odra Wodzislaw	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Hutnik Krakow	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Stomil Olsztyn	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Slask Wroclaw	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Gornik Zabrze	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Legia Warsaw	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Ruch Chorzow	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Lech Poznan	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Polonia Warsaw	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Wisla Krakow	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Zaglebie Lubin	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Widzew Lodz	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
LKS Lodz	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Rakow Czestochowa	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
GKS Belchatow	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

USA — MLS

Columbus	1	Dallas	2
New England	2	San Jose	0
Washington	2	Kansas City	3
Tampa Bay	4	Los Angeles	3
Kansas City	4	New Zealand	2
Dallas	3	Colorado	0
New York/New Jersey	4	San Jose	1
Washington DC	2	Columbus	0

AUSTRIA FIRST DIVISION

FC Linz	0	Austria Wien	1
Ried	1	FC Tirol	2
Admira/Wacker	2	GAK	2
Sturm Graz	0	SV Salzburg	0

TABLE

FC Tirol Innsbruck	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Austria Wien	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
SV Salzburg	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
GAK	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Rapid Wien	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Linzer ASK	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sturm Graz	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Admira/Wacker	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
SV Ried	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
FC Linz	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

ROMANIA FIRST DIVISION

F.C. Nat Bucharest	1	AS Bacau	0
F.C. Chindia Tirgoviste	1	C Piatra Neamt	0
Steaua Bucharest	2	Otelul Galati	1
Jiul Petrosani	4	Sportul Studentesc	1
Dinamo Bucharest	3	Gloria Bistrita	0
F.C. Arges Pitesti	0	F.C. Petrolul Ploiesti	0
Universitatea Craiova	5	F.C. Brasov	0
Politehnica Timisoara	0	F.C. Farul Constanta	0
Universitatea Cluj	2	Rapid Bucharest	2

TABLE

Universitatea Craiova	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Jiul Petrosani	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Dinamo Bucharest	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Steaua Bucharest	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
F.C. Nat Bucharest	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
F.C. Chindia Tirgoviste	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Universitatea Cluj	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Rapid Bucharest	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
F.C. Arges Dacia Pitesti	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
F.C. Petrolul Ploiesti	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Politehnica Timisoara	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
F.C. Farul Constanta	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
A.S. Bacau	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Otelul Galati	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Gloria Bistrita	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Sportul Studentesc	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
F.C. Brasov	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

FIRST ROUND

Albion	4	Arbroath	0
Ayr	5	Livingston	2

Brechin	3	Montrose	0
Clyde 1 Inverness Thistle	0	(after extra time. score at 90 minutes 0-0)	
Cowdenbeath 1 Forfar 2	(after extra time. score at 90 minutes 1-1)		
East Stirling	1	Alloa	3
Queen's Park 3 Ross County 1	(after extra time. score at 90 minutes 1-1)		
Stranraer	2	Queen of South	0

SECOND ROUND DRAW

Partick Thistle v Forfar Athletic, Queen's Park v Aberdeen, Greenock Morton v Hamilton, Airdrie v Raith Rovers, St Mirren v Berwick Rangers, East Fife v St Johnstone, Dundee v Dumbarton, Stranraer v Dunfermline, Kilmarnock v Ayr Utd, Stirling Albion v Dundee Utd, Motherwell v Alloa Athletic, Clyde v Celtic, Falkirk v Albion Rovers, Brechin City v Hibernian, Hearts v Stenhousemuir, Clydebank v Rangers
Ties to be played August 13/14

RUSSIA PREMIER

Rostelmash Rostov	2	Torpedo Moscow	2
Zenit St Petersburg	1	Dynamo Moscow	0
Alania Vladikavkaz	2	Spartak Moscow	2
Baltika Kaliningrad	5	K Sovetov Samara	0
C Novorossiisk	3	L Nizhny Novgorod	0
Lokomotiv Moscow	1	T Kamyshev	0

TABLE

Alania Vladikavkaz	21	14	4	3	40	20	46
Spartak Moscow	20	12	5	3	38	16	41
Rotor Volgograd	18	11	5	2	29	12	38
Dynamo Moscow	20	10	7	3	31	16	37
CSKA Moscow	19	10	5	4	20	10	35
L Nizhny Novgorod	19	9	2	8	19	26	29
Zenit St Petersburg	19	8	4	7	20	18	28
Lokomotiv Moscow	19	7	7	5	21	15	28
Torpedo Moscow	20	7	7	6	24	24	28
Baltika Kaliningrad	19	6	7	6	23	21	25
Rostelmash Rostov	19	6	6	7	36	31	24
Kryla Sovetov Samara	19	5	7	7	13	20	22
C Novorossiisk	20	5	5	10	20	29	20
Zhemchuzhina Sochi	19	5	4	10	17	32	19
K Naberezhnye Chelny	19	4	3	12	18	33	15
Lada Togliatti	18	3	5	10	9	26	14
U Yekaterinburg	18	2	5	11	16	33	11
Te Kamyshev	19	1	8	11	10	22	11

UEFA SECOND

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Kosice (Slovakia) v Celtic (Scotland)
Legia Warsaw (Poland) v Haka RY (Finland)
Rapid Bucharest (Romania) v Sofia (Bulgaria)
Sliema Wanderers (Malta) v Odense (Denmark)
Heraklis Thessaloniki (Greece) v Apol Nicosia (Cyprus)
Zagreb (Croatia) v Spartak Moscow (Russia)
Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia) v National Bucharest (Romania)
Dynamo Tbilisi (Georgia) v Molde (Norway)
Lyngby (Denmark) v Mura (Slovenia)
Halmstads (Sweden) v Vardar (Macedonia)
Dynamo Moscow (Russia) v Jazz (Finland)
Zalgiris Vilnius (Lithuania) v Aberdeen (Scotland)
Budapest Vasutas (Hungary) v Barry Town (Wales)
Helsingborgs (Sweden) v Dynamo-93 Minsk (Belarus)
Hajduk Split (Croatia) v Torpedo Moscow (Russia)
Aarau (Switzerland) v Lantana (Estonia)
Dynamo Minsk (Belarus) v Besiktas JK (Turkey)
HJK Helsinki (Finland) v Chemomoret's Odessa (Ukraine)
Casino Graz (Austria) v Vojvodina (Yugoslavia)
Neuchatel (Switzerland) v Anorthosis (Cyprus)
Sigma Olomouc (Czech Republic) v Hutnik Krakow (Poland)
Akrances (Iceland) v CSKA Moscow (Russia)
Tirol Innsbruck (Austria) v Slavia Sofia (Bulgaria)
Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia) v Trabzonspor (Turkey)
Skonto (Latvia) v Malmo (Sweden)
Beitar Jerusalem (Israel) v Bodo (Norway)
Matches to be played on August 6 and 20.

Antipodean Tour of South America

The Antipodean Schoolboys recently returned from their 17 day tour of Argentina and Chile with impressive results and many tales of life in South America to tell family and friends.

The squad, coached by NSW Schoolboys coach David Jirsa and managed by Mark Smith of Holy Spirit College, Bellambi, boasted a 4-1 win loss record against school and club sides from Buenos Aires, Mendoza and Mar Del Plata, with 16 goals for and five against.

Match results were:

Antipodeans 3 defeated St Andrews Buenos Aires (B) 1
Antipodeans 3 defeated St Andrews Buenos Aires (A) 0
Antipodeans 6 defeated San Jorge Mendoza 0
Antipodeans 4 defeated Holy Trinity Mar del Plata 0
Quilmas Mar del Plata 4 defeated Antipodeans 0

All the games were competitive and closer than the scores suggest, with the Argentinian sides conceding a number of late goals as they pushed numbers forward in search of an equaliser.

Similarly the Quilmas side, the

current Under 16 regional champions, were held to 0-0 at half-time, and it was due to the fact that the Antipodeans were backing up only three hours after their Holy Trinity game, that the locals were able to finish so convincingly over the 13 man squad of Year 11 students from New South Wales.

All players were praised by their coach for the skill and discipline they showed, with special mention to Newcastle's NSW Schools representative striker, Andrew Folwell, goalkeeper Michael Keats from Stanmore CYC and midfielder Ricky Aguilera from Wollongong Wolves Youth side. Folwell scored a number of spectacular strikes amongst his tally of 12 goals on tour, Keats was instrumental in thwarting many Argentinian attacks whilst Aguilera, himself of Chilean descent, more than matched the silky skills of this opposition.

SANTIAGO RAINED OFF

Two matches in Santiago were unfortunately cancelled due to rain, these were replaced by indoor six a side games with Futsal rules and interchange substitutions.

Here the impressive close

skills of the South Americans proved more difficult to negate than on the full size pitch with the Aussies losing the first 7-5 and drawing 6-6 in the second.

Highlights of the tour included:

* a visit to the River Plate v Newell Old Boys match at The River Plate Stadium

* a tour of the Catolica University Stadium (one of Santiago's premiere teams) and training on one of their outdoor synthetic pitches

* a spectacular flight across the Andes Mountains

* the hospitality shown by the billeting families who were keen to show the Aussies the best of South American life

* the number of attractive Argentinian schoolgirls who were keen to practice their English and exchange addresses with our more than willing boys

Due to the success of this tour, South America is the destination for 1997.

Any boy wishing to register his interest to tour can phone Mark de Carvalho on (02) 9413 1843.



Picture taken at the foothills of the Andes Mountains, Santiago, Chile.

Back row (left to right): Nick Ryan (capt), Chevalier College, Bowral, David Jirsa, Jannali High, John Carusi, Edmund Rice College, Wollongong, Michael Keats, Jannali High, Matthew Fuz, St John's, Nowra, Mark Smith, Holy Spirit, Bellambi, Mark Marinelli, St Joseph's, Albion Park.
Front row (l to r): Patrick Flynn, Chevalier College, Bowral, Gary De Sousa, Waverley College, Anthony Bevan, St Patrick's, Sutherland, Adrian Daniels, St John's, Nowra, Michael Tilt, Menai High, Andrew Folwell, Newcastle Grammar, Steven, Collier Melbourne Grammar.
Absent: Ricky Aguilera, Holy Spirit, Bellambi.

WORLD STORIES

Lebanon's new world

When Lebanon hosted an Asian qualifying tournament for the 1994 World Cup in Beirut in May 1993, it marked a "New World Order" for the country in general and for football in particular.

For 15 years, from 1975, the country had been filled with civil war, hate and betrayal, yet football was reuniting the people and bringing together two lost generations for a common cause.

Football in Lebanon has a long history. According to the book "College" published in 1910 by the American University of Beirut, the game was spread at the end of the Ottoman reign, in 1908 to be precise, by American University students.

The first official football friendly took place on May 9, 1910, between American University and a team selected from the British frigate "Durham". The university students won 2-1.

The first World War put an end to football activities until 1924, after which the Université Saint Joseph, founded by French emissaries, created their own football team to challenge the supremacy of the American University students. This marked the beginning of the Francophone-Anglophone rivalry prevalent throughout the country at all levels.

Next came the formation of the Union Sportive de Beyrouth, Jesus Circle, Sporting Club and Al Nahda in Greater Beirut; with the enormous support of football fanatics, no fewer than 28 clubs were founded outside the capital to challenge the big city sides.

March 22, 1933, was a day to remember, marking the creation of the Lebanese football federation after a meeting of 13 clubs.

The first league title was held in 1933-34 and involved nine clubs. Al Nahda were the inaugural champions after

hammering Railways and Port (Sika) 7-1 in the play-off. A further 12 sides contested the second division and Al Salam emerged as champions, beating Ararat, from the Armenian community 2-0.

In 16 championships between 1944 and 1969, Homentmen (seven) and Homenmen (four) won the league 11 times between them and provided the bulk of the national team stars, such as Khoren Akbayan, Mardik Torossian and Apo Sarkissian.

Ansar are undoubtedly the most powerful post-war club, with seven consecutive league titles and six FA Cups in the past seven seasons.

Football in Lebanon is semi-professional but officials hope to have a fully professional structure in place within five years.

The cosmopolitan nature of Lebanon is creating a pleasant footballing environment for players from Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Ukraine, Armenia, Croatia, Egypt, Syria and Iraq, while the national team is now under the control of Welshman Terry Yorath, formerly of Leeds United, Coventry City and a Wales international.

Other developments include the building of a 60,000-capacity stadium in a new Sports City in Beirut, ready for the Pan-Arab Games in September 1996, to pave the way for a more peaceful future.

The end of the Gulf War heralded the birth of a New World Order. Now it is up to the Country of the Cedars, known in the 60s and early 70s as the Switzerland of the Orient, to generate a New World football order.

Two wins over Turkmenistan in the opening rounds of Group 10 of the Asian Cup qualifying tournament, meant that they were honoured by their Confederation by being made Team of the Month for May.



Al Ansar ... Lebanon's champions for seven successive years.

Donadoni pushes NY-NJ

Roberto Donadoni had a hand in the first three goals last week to lift New York-New Jersey MetroStars to a 4-1 victory over the San Jose Clash in Major League Soccer.

Peter Vermes put the MetroStars ahead 2-1 in the 51st minute with a powerful left-footed shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Vermes' goal, his first of the season, came off a cross from Donadoni, who had taken a short corner from Tab Ramos.

The victory before 21,212 at Giants stadium was the second in four days for the Metrostars over the Clash.

San Jose, which had two players sent off, lost to the MetroStars 1-0 at home on Wednesday.

Rob Johnson's glancing header off Donadoni's cross had put the Metrostars ahead in the 36th.

Eric Wynalda levelled the scores three minutes later with a penalty. It followed a hand ball by Nicola Caricola.

A J Wood added a goal in the 80th minute when he ran onto a long Donadoni pass and scored with a low shot. Rhett Harty scored in the 88th.

San Jose defender, John Doyle was dismissed in the 43rd minute with forward, Eddie Lewis followed in the 81st.

UEFA get tough with fines

UEFA last week suspended Azerbaijani player Ayidin Alekberov for five matches after he spat on an opponent in the preliminary round of the UEFA Cup.

Alekberov's Neftchi Baku teammate Rasim Abusev, sent off in the second leg against Lokomotiv Sofia, was banned for four games, while coach Asif Aliyev was barred from the touchline for two matches for insulting the referee.

French side Strasbourg was fined \$A10,000 for their bad behaviour in Intertoto Cup matches against CSKA Sofia and PFC Uralmash.

Three Strasbourg players were also suspended — Valerien Ismael (3 matches), Jean-Luc Dogon, a member of the Bordeaux side that reached the 1996 UEFA Cup Final, and David Zitelli (1 match).

Papin bound for Bordeaux

French striker Jean-Pierre Papin said last week he was leaving Bayern Munich to join French first division club Bordeaux.

"The deal is done, we only have to sign it," he told journalists before flying to France.

Papin, 32, will sign a two-year contract with Bordeaux, who will pay Bayern \$A874,925.

"I had a bad year with coach Otto Rehhagel who did not trust me," Papin said in explanation of his decision to move from Bayern.

Papin joined the Bavarian club two years ago from Italy's AC Milan. He had a year left to run on his contract with the German side.



SWITZERLAND LOSE ANOTHER COACH

Artur Jorge, the man expected to lead Switzerland into the 1998 World Cup, was released from his contract as coach of the national team last week, less than a month before its first qualifying match.

According to a report from Swiss Sports Information, the parting was amicable and by mutual agreement ending months of speculation and rumour.

The move frees Jorge to return home to his native Portugal where it is reported he has signed on as manager of his country's national team.

Jorge's departure occurs just seven months after taking over the Swiss coaching duties from Roy Hodgson and only four weeks before Switzerland's first World Cup qualifying match against Azerbaijan in Baku.



HAGI TROTS OFF TO TURKEY

Romania's 31 year old Gheorghe Hagi has signed a three-year contract with Turkish club Galatasaray Istanbul, his agent said.

"Hagi has signed a very advantageous contract with Galatasaray Istanbul," his agent Ioan Becali told Reuters by telephone from Istanbul, without giving a figure.

But Turkish soccer journalists said the Romanian attacking midfielder would get \$A1.7 million a year with his new side.

Hagi, who won his 100th cap for Romania during the European Championships completed his two-year contract with Barcelona earlier last month.

Croatian Corner

By John Viskovich

Croatia start their quest for participation in the 1998 World Cup Finals in France, on October 9.

UEFA Group 1 has five nations competing. They are Denmark, Greece, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

Bosnia-Herzegovina host Croatia on the second Wednesday in October. A month later, in Zagreb, Greece take the short journey north for what should be an intriguing contest.

The final game in the group is on October 11, 1997 when Slovenia are home to Croatia.

Full draw for Group 1 — UEFA

- 24.04.96 Greece — Slovenia 2-0
- 01.09.96 Greece — Bosnia-Herzegovina
- 01.09.96 Slovenia — Denmark
- 09.10.96 Denmark — Greece
- 09.10.96 Bosnia-Herzegovina — Croatia
- 10.11.96 Croatia — Greece
- 29.03.97 Croatia — Denmark
- 02.04.97 Croatia — Slovenia
- 02.04.97 Bosnia-Herzegovina — Greece
- 30.04.97 Denmark — Slovenia
- 30.04.97 Greece — Croatia
- 08.06.97 Denmark — Bosnia-Herzegovina

- 20.08.97 Bosnia-Herzegovina — Denmark
- 06.09.97 Croatia — Bosnia-Herzegovina
- 10.09.97 Denmark — Croatia

- 10.09.97 Bosnia-Herzegovina — Slovenia
- 11.10.97 Greece — Denmark
- 11.10.97 Slovenia — Croatia



Allen Boksic: Vital part to play in Croatia's France 98 campaign.



Croatia team including Jerkan, Bilic, Vucevic, Pavlicic & Weber.



Victorian Ladders



PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Utd	24	15	5	4	58	26	50
Altona Gate	24	16	2	6	55	25	50
Sunshine GX	23	15	3	5	35	24	48
Bentleigh Green	24	14	4	6	44	28	46
Thomastown Zeb.	24	13	6	5	45	30	45
Green Gully	24	10	10	4	41	29	40
Port Melbourne	24	10	8	6	54	39	38
Bulleen	23	8	7	8	31	35	31
North Geelong	24	8	5	11	27	40	29
Box Hill Inter	24	5	5	14	26	52	20
Albion	24	4	6	14	23	40	18
St Albans	24	4	5	15	27	47	17
Fawkner	24	4	5	15	21	46	17
Springvale City	24	3	5	16	27	53	14

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Utd	22	16	0	6	67	40	48
Thomastown	22	14	4	4	53	20	46
Port Melbourne	24	13	6	5	50	27	45
Bulleen	23	14	2	7	58	29	44
Bentleigh Green	22	12	3	7	54	46	39
Sunshine G.X.	22	9	9	4	42	34	36
Green Gully	23	9	5	9	43	36	32
Fawkner	22	8	4	10	34	48	28
Altona Gate	23	8	3	12	43	52	27
Box Hill Inter	22	7	5	10	37	45	26
Springvale City	24	6	7	11	48	51	25
St Albans	23	5	7	11	26	40	22
Albion	24	6	2	16	37	75	20
North Geelong	24	3	3	18	23	72	12

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sp White Eagles	19	13	3	3	41	18	42
Preston Lions	20	11	6	3	31	14	39
West Suburbs	20	11	5	4	27	16	38
Kings City	20	8	10	2	27	20	34
Richmond	19	8	9	2	36	24	33
Lalor Utd	20	9	5	6	51	34	32
C'don City Dons	20	8	6	6	38	22	30
Moorabbin City	19	7	5	7	22	24	26
Werribee City	20	7	4	9	28	24	25
Westgate	20	5	6	9	32	41	21
Don'ster Rovers	20	4	8	8	24	30	20
Northcote City	18	3	5	10	15	31	14
Broadmeadows	19	4	2	13	20	49	14
Glen Eira City	20	1	2	17	12	57	5

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Preston	16	13	1	2	43	14	40
Werribee City	19	12	4	3	39	26	40
Moorabbin City	18	10	5	3	45	20	35
Croydon City	19	11	2	6	43	26	35
Don'ster Rovers	20	11	2	7	43	31	35
Richmond	16	10	3	3	31	16	33
Kings City	20	9	3	8	47	33	30
Lalor United	19	8	1	10	43	34	25
Sp White Eagles	18	7	1	10	45	40	22
West Suburbs	17	5	2	10	33	44	17
Glen Eira City	20	5	2	13	25	56	17
Northcote City	16	5	1	10	16	49	16
Westgate	18	4	0	14	15	51	12
Broadmeadows	16	2	1	13	15	43	7

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westvale	20	17	1	2	77	21	49
Sth Dandenong	20	12	3	5	48	27	39
Altona East	20	11	5	4	39	24	38
Altona City	19	10	3	6	37	19	33
Waverley City	20	9	4	7	46	42	31
Frankston Pines	20	7	7	6	29	26	28
Ess Brun Royals	20	7	7	6	20	21	28
Knox City	20	6	7	7	28	37	25
East Richmond	19	6	5	8	32	29	23
Regent Bulla	20	4	9	7	20	34	21
Oakland	20	3	8	9	20	48	17
Bell Park	19	4	4	11	19	31	16

Nunawading City	20	3	6	11	19	54	15
Mooroolbark	19	3	3	13	24	45	12

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston Pines	18	14	2	2	41	15	44
Ess Brun Royals	20	11	4	5	50	20	37
Altona City	18	12	0	6	45	27	36
Waverley City	19	11	1	7	55	34	34
East Richmond	19	7	6	6	32	27	27
Westvale	20	8	5	7	33	31	26
Knox City	20	7	5	8	36	38	26
Oakland	20	8	1	11	52	41	25
Mooroolbark	17	6	6	5	31	33	24
Regent Bulla	19	8	0	11	36	53	24
Altona East	19	6	5	8	34	37	23
Nunawading City	19	5	3	11	40	46	18
Sth Dandenong	19	5	3	11	33	51	18
Bell Park	19	2	5	12	24	89	11

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston	20	15	2	3	67	24	47
Ringwood City	19	11	5	3	53	17	38
Cranbourne	20	11	4	5	35	22	37
Sth Springvale	19	11	3	5	46	24	36
Dia Valley Utd	19	11	2	6	27	24	35
Fitzroy City	18	8	4	6	35	23	28
Sth Caulfield	20	9	2	9	39	39	26
Pascoe Vale	19	7	4	8	23	28	25
Sth Werribee	19	6	6	7	38	38	24
Melb City	20	5	6	9	29	34	21
Keilor Eagles	20	4	7	9	16	27	19
Banyule	20	4	7	9	26	44	19
Chelsea	20	3	5	12	27	76	14
Clifton Hill	19	1	3	15	12	53	6

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ringwood City	19	16	1	2	69	15	49
Cranbourne	20	15	3	2	81	16	48
Keilor Eagles	19	14	3	2	52	19	45
Dia Valley Utd	19	10	3	6	52	31	33
Sth Springvale	17	10	2	5	46	21	32
Fitzroy City	19	9	5	5	47	37	32
Frankston	19	8	4	7	67	37	28
Melb City	19	7	5	7	35	31	26
Pascoe Vale	19	7	1	11	33	45	22
Sth Werribee	18	6	3	9	38	64	21
Banyule	19	4	3	12	38	67	15
Sth Caulfield	19	4	5	10	23	36	14
Chelsea	20	2	1	17	25	78	7
Clifton Hill	18	0	1	17	6	115	1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Yarraville	19	14	3	2	44	18	45
Geelong	20	11	7	2	44	25	40
Sun Heights	20	12	2	6	42	22	38
Nth Coburg Utd	20	12	2	6	49	33	38
Stonnington	20	11	3	6	41	25	36
Lalor	19	8	4	7	36	28	28
Sunbury Utd	20	7	6	7	24	27	27
Langwarrin	20	7	5	8	41	33	26
Monbulk	19	6	7	6	20	23	25
Seaford Utd	20	7	2	11	27	38	23
Moreland City	20	6	3	11	28	39	21
Corio	20	5	3	12	23	44	18
Williamstown	20	4	5	11	25	40	17
Sandr City	19	1	2	16	12	61	5

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	20	15	2	3	71	24	47
Sunbury Utd	20	14	2	4	31	17	44
Sun Heights	19	12	4	3	59	14	40
Lalor	19	10	6	3	44	27	36
Stonnington	20	10	3	7	40	29	33
Nth Coburg Utd	19	10	2	7	53	48	32
Seaford Utd	20	8	6	6	51	34	30
Yarraville	18	8	5	5	42	27	29
Moreland City	19	7	2	10	33	34	23
Monbulk	19	5	5	9	21	35	20
Geelong	20	4	4	12	23	62	16

Corio	20	3	6	11	22	47	15
San'ham City	19	3	1	15	22	66	10
Williamstown	20	1	4	15	21	69	7

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keysborough	18	13	1	4	36	14	40
Geel Rangers	18	12	3	3	50	21	39
Melton	18	10	5	3	33	15	35
Sth Wantima	17	10	2	5	41	22	32
Sp'vale Condors	16	9	6	1	32	19	30
Nth Sunshine	17	8	3	6	32	25	27
Knox Park	18	7	3	8	34	32	24
Mitcham Utd	16	7	1	8	28	28	22
Mornington	17	6	3	8	19	35	21
Doveton	18	5	5	8	22	30	20
Old Scotch-Haw	18	5	3	10	25	23	18
Glenroy	18	4	5	9	26	36	17
Ballarat	17	3	3	11	13	37	12
Heidelberg City	18	1	1	16	10	64	4

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox Park	18	10	5	3	46	20	35
Melton	18	10	2	6	34	22	32
Mitcham Utd	15	9	3	3	47	27	30
Glenroy	17	9	3	5	47	31	30
Mornington	17	9	3	5	26	29	30
Nth Sunshine	17	8	3	6	26	28	27
Ballarat	16	8	1	7	30	29	25
Sp'vale Condors	15	8	2	5	42	25	23
Geel Rangers	18	6	4	8	31	38	22
Sth Wantima	16	4	6	6	22	27	18
Keysborough	17	4	2	11	29	43	14
Heidelberg City	16	3	5	8	19	43	14
Old Scotch-Haw	16	2	6	8	28	39	12
Doveton	16	2	3	11	20	46	9

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

FIRSTS

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TACKLE DIABETES



PREMIER LEAGUE — ROUND 25

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH, 1996
(2nds: 1.00pm/1sts: 3.00PM)

Sunshine Georgies	v	Nth Geelong Warriors
Pt Melbourne Sharks	v	Albion Redsoxs
Bentleigh Greens	v	Springvale City Vales
St Albans Saints	v	Heidelberg United
Thomastown Zebras	v	Fawkner Blues
Box Hill Inter	v	Altona Magic
Green Gully Cavaliers	v	Bulleen Lions

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH — RD 21

Doncaster Rovers	v	Northcote City
S'vale Wht Eagles	v	Western Suburbs
Br Meadows City	v	Moorabbin City
Preston Lions	v	Kingston City
Richmond	v	Lalor United
Westgate	v	Croydon City
Glen Eira City	v	Werribee City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH

Altona City	v	Sth Dandenong
Mooroolbark	v	Oakleigh
Bell Park	v	Waverley City
Westvale	v	East Richmond
Regent-Bulla	v	Ess. Bruns. Royals
Knox city	v	Frankston Pines
Altona East	v	Nunawading City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Sth Werribee	v	Cranbourne
Ringwood City	v	Frankston
Chelsea	v	Fitzroy City
Sth Springvale	v	Diamond Valley Utd.
Danyule City	v	Sth Caulfield
Clifton Hill	v	Melbourne City
Pascoe Vale	v	Keilor Eagles

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Nth Coburg Utd.	v	Geelong
Seaford Utd.	v	Williamstown
Corio	v	Sunshine Heights
Moreland City	v	Sunbury Utd.
Stonnington City	v	Sandringham City
Monbulk	v	Yarraville
Langwarrin	v	Lalor

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH — RD 19

S'vale Condors	v	Melton
Mornington	v	Geelong Rangers
Sth Wantima	v	Old Scotch/Hawt.
Mitcham Utd.	v	Keysborough
Heidelberg City	v	Doveton
Glenroy	v	Ballarat
Nth Sunshine	v	Knox Park

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Meadow Park	v	Endeavour Utd.
Berwick City	v	Croxton
Lyndale Utd.	v	Nth Glenroy
East Nun Eagles	v	Hoppers Crossing
Sth Yarra	v	Brandon Park
Hampton Park Utd	v	Dandenong
Brunswick City	v	Braeside Utd

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

METROPOLITAN

T'stowe Eagles	v	Elwood City
Riversdale	v	Uni Melb Blues
Keilor Utd	v	Newb/Yallourn
Ringwood Rovers	v	Ashburton
Parkmore	v	Monash Uni
Melb. Uni Rangers	v	Br Meadows Utd.

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

SOUTH/EAST/CENTRAL

Flem Falcons	v	Thornbury
Noble Park	v	Wav. Wanderers
Yarra Utd	v	Ivanhoe Utd.
Oakleigh Utd.	v	Cam. Gr. Old Boys
Nth. Caulfield	v	Collingwood City
Endeavour Hills	v	East Kew

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

NORTH/WEST

Sydenham Park	v	Upfield
Sunshine Park	v	West Preston
Latrobe Uni	v	Whittlesea Utd.
Northern Utd	v	Darebin Utd.
Nth. Reservoir	v	Diamond Valley
Mill Park	v	Keon Park

NORTH GEELONG 2

PORT MELBOURNE 1

BY ROY HAY

North Geelong put an end to Port Melbourne Sharks hopes of reaching the Victorian Premier League play-offs with a 2-1 win at Elcho Park on Sunday.

North went rampaging forward in the first few minutes and man of the match Ante Deak skipped through two tackles and fired the ball past keeper Manny Papas.

Twice Clayton Bell stretched to get shots on target but pulled them wide, while Nick Tsaltas hit the post from close range after Joey Didulica had blocked the first attempt.

Eventually the Port activity produced a goal when Bell's cross was looped over Didulica by Nick Papadopoulos.

The Warriors responded with great character as Mijo Trupkovic and Deak sprinted clear again with the later showing why he is such a great prospect with the coolest of finishing.

WARRIORS: Joe Didulica, Bot (Pannetta — G. Saric), Rajher (Sobevski), Medved, Cosic, McAuliffe, Deak, Dimovski, Trupkovic, Skoko, O'Sullivan.

SHARKS: Papas, Latinopoulos (Mitroulas), Papadopoulos (Livanopoulos), Kyriakopoulos, Hastie (Karakyriakos), Gotis, Palamaras, Bell, Duric, Tsaltas, Efsthathiou.

REFEREE: Alan Contini.
VOTES: 3 — Deak (Warriors); 2 — Joe Didulica (Warriors); 1 — Bell (Sharks).

SPRINGVALE 2

ST ALBANS 2

BY D. TUFFNELL

A defensive error ten minutes from time cost the Springvale City Vales three points in Friday nights clash with the St Albans Saints.

The Vales twice had the lead only to be pegged back twice as the points that would have temporarily taken them out of the relegation zone went begging.

Vince De La Plaza put the Vales in front in 23 minutes with a superb strike from 20 yards that caught Marijan Vunderl out.

The Saints responded just two minutes later with an equally impressive shot from Tom Pondeljak.

Vunderl was a hero for the Saints, particularly in a two minute period just after half time when he made three outstanding saves notably a stinging effort from Andy

Vargas. David Grella managed to beat him in the 64th minute after Joe Campagna had robbed Pondeljak before setting off on a solo run and releasing Grella whose shot went in with the aid of a slight deflection.

Then a mistake in the 80th minute let the Saints steal a point.

Sandro Razzi missed what appeared to be an easy clearance letting veteran striker Paul Lewis in who easily beat Steve Christov in the Vales goal.

VALES: Christov, Lettieri, De La Plaza (Gomez), Razzi, V. Grella, Campagna, D. Grella, Lancaster, Rep. A. Vargas (Carlos), P. Grella.

SAINTS: Vunderl, Grganovic, Razov, M. Colina (I. Rados), Magdic, Jolie, Gagula, Pondeljak, Markovac (Cuze), Movric, Lewis.

REFEREE: Hossein Mohammadi.

VOTES: 3 — Campagna (Vales); 2 — Vunderl (Saints); 1 — D. Grella (Vales).

FAWKNER 2

BOX HILL 1

BY G. KOUKERIS

Fawkner Blues capped off a significant win over Box Hill Inter to keep their relegation chances above water in the closing stages of the season.

Box Hill emerging from a 0-5 thrashing to Heidelberg last week went about restoring its team confidence, Inter's dream were short lived three minutes into the game.

Fawkner captain Tony Schipano intercepted a defensive error to open the Blues account.

Box Hill's woes continued to grow rapidly. In the 14th minute, Fawkner midfielder Michael Branov controlled the heavy ball well to set up Alex Stefanovic for a shot on goal.

A rough encounter with Inter goalkeeper Sean Keogh earned him a red card. Fawkner capitalised from a freekick to surge forward 2-0 and mount pressure on Box Hill.

It was not until midway through the second half, that Box Hill broke its goal drought via a corner kick that found Gary Frezzini in the 21st minute.

Box Hill hopes were revitalised in the closing stages of the game. Several attempts were made to break through for an equaliser, the undermanned team found the pressure mounting up against them.

BLUES: Beattie,

Vasiliadis, Tramontana, Bordignon, Schipano, Branov (Toprteviski), Minichello, Ferla, Mihocic (De Santis), Stevanovic.

INTER: Keogh (sent off), Lennon (Tsakiris), Pansino, Castro, Dal Ben, Marcen (Maratso), Roodhouse, Guscic, Gugulemi, Frezzini, chirico (Saleme).

REFEREE: Andrew Stacey.

VOTES: 3 — Bordignon (Blues); 2 — Tsakiris (Inter); 1 — Branov (Blues).

HEIDELBERG 1

THOMASTOWN 1

BY N. TZAFERIS

Premier League glamour sides, Heidelberg United and Thomastown Zebras, slogged out a 1-1 draw on a very heavy pitch at Olympic village on Sunday.

The two sides failed to find any rhythm to their play and struggled to string a collection of passes together on the muddy surface.

West Australian, Bobby Despotovski, claimed his 23rd of the season when he got the games opener on 55 minutes. After receiving an incisive Con Boutsianis pass, Despotovski beat Maurice Raponi from inside the area.

The Heidelberg lead only lasted seventeen minutes before Kiwi Harry Ngata easily scored after Heidelberg shot stopper Glenn Clarke failed to hold a Klaus Bichler cross.

The draw between Altona and Green Gully meant that Heidelberg held on to top spot and Thomastown still stayed five points clear of sixth placed Green Gully.

UNITED: Clarke, Iosifidis, Scott, Hasler, Despotovski, Koutos, Tyrikos (Stefanidis), Fak, Boutsianis, Svigos, McNicol.

ZEBRAS: Raponi, Banni (Bichler), Angelovski, Karic, Della rocca, Gnjidic (Zinni), Tricarico, Mazzini, Iacovitti, Boxchini (Cracium), Ngata.

REFEREE: Colin Ellis.

VOTES: 3 — Ngata (Zebras); 2 — Scott (United); 1 — Raponi (Zebras).

ALBION 3

BENTLEIGH 0

BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG

A polished double from veteran skipper, Claude Lucchesi, helped inspire the Albion Redsox to a deserved 3-0 win over Bentleigh, enhancing their survival chances.

Both teams had their chances in an action-packed first half, especially Albion, who had a goal bound Sonny Sevin shot cleared off the line by Theo Constantinou.

Carlos Retre opened the scoring for the Redsox in the 47th minute, rising into the air to head home a Jamie McMinimee free kick.

Albion continued to attack, and were rewarded

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 24 RESULTS

Springvale City Vales 2 (De La Plaza, D. Grella) — St Albans Saints 2 (Pondeljak, Lewis)
Bulleen Lions v sunshine Georgies — match postponed
Altona Magic 1 (Becvinovski) — Green Gully Cavaliers 1 (Babic)
Fawkner Blues 2 (Schipano, Branov) — Box Hill Inter 0
Heidelberg United 1 (Despotovski) — Thomastown Zebras 1 (Ngata)
Albion Redsox 3 (Retre, Lucchesi 2) — Bentleigh Greens 0
North Geelong Warriors 2 (Deak) — Port Melbourne Sharks 1 (Papadopoulos)

LEADING GOALSCORERS

23 Despotovski (Heidelberg)
18 Becvinovski (Altona)
15 Zinni (Thomastown)
13 Nilo (Sunshine)

PASCOE VALE SPORTS SCENE

TOP VOTES

25 — Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)
20 — Ngata (Thomastown)
18 — Cassar (Sunshine)
Cosic (North Geelong)
17 — Rusmir (Altona)
Stojcevski (Bulleen)
Bell (Port Melbourne)
15 — Georgiadis (Heidelberg)
Becvinovski (Altona)

when a cross from Sevin was pushed into the net by a sliding Lucchesi 19 minutes later.

Leveni Osman cleared a certain Bentleigh goal off the line a few minutes later, before Lucchesi headed in his second, from a corner, three minutes from time.

RED SOX: Brian, Garpinar, Grimaud, Lucchesi, Osman, Wilson, Donnelly, Collins, Patsaman (Retre — Carter), McMinimee, Sevin (Scrobogna).

GREENS: Jones, Drakos, Constantinou, Theoharous, Kotsovolos, Kalimeris, Rossios, McDonagh, Crivari (Argiros), Carrey (Christou), Pappetas.

REFEREE: Vince Celestrino.

VOTES: 3 — Lucchesi (Redsox); 2 — Sevin (Redsox); 1 — Osman (Redsox).

called for a foul against Cavs goalkeeper Chris Vella for taking too many steps.

Nick Georgopoulos laid the ball off to sharpshooter Sash Becvinovski who fired past an eleven man wall to level the ledger.

Altona should have stolen the points in the 86th minute with an attack involving Becvinovski and Georgopoulos, Becvinovski supplied a cross to Georgopoulos who was faced with open goal but could only manage to put his attempt wide.

Coaches Gary Cole (Altona) and Chris Taylor (Green Gully) described the game as a battle, stating both teams were desperate for the points.

Green Gully in their last two games have to beat Bulleen and Sunshine to qualify for the finals and have to rely on Thomastown to lose against, Fawkner and Altona.

MAGIC: McGrath, Tasevski, Atanasovski, Bogoevski, Micevski, Markovski, Rusmir, Georgopoulos, Becvinovski, Petrevski, Cvetkovski.

CAVALIERS: Vella, Spiteri, Douglas, Waddell, Markovski (Maglovski), Suric, Chetcuti, Neceski, Babic, Genovski, Scoble (Stafrace).

REFEREE: Jim Markovski.

VOTES: 3 — T. Markovski (Magic); 2 — Spiteri (Cavaliers); 1 — Douglas (Cavaliers).

Referee Jim Markovski awarded Altona a controversial indirect free kick in the box, when he

NEXT WEEKS FIXTURES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

Sunshine Georgies	v	Nth Geelong Warriors
Port Melbourne Sharks	v	Albion Redsox
Bentleigh Greens	v	Springvale City Vales
St Albans Saints	v	Heidelberg United
Thomastown Zebras	v	Fawkner Blues
Box Hill Inter	v	Altona Magic
Green Gully Cavaliers	v	Bulleen Lions



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BRAZIL BECKONS

BY CON STAVROS

With Soccer Australia seemingly determined to extinguish all ethnic links, including club national colors, how long before one of our clubs suddenly realises upon a major merchandising coup.

The idea of course, floated many times here at ABSW, is to adopt the strip of everybody's second favourite team — Brazil.

With the South Americans long standing traditional gold and green shirts, blue shorts and white socks synonymous with success and the playing strip extremely appealing to the eye, many teams throughout the world have adopted the colors as an away strip at the very least.

With perhaps only the Juventus black and white stripes as familiar worldwide, the Brazilian strip is popular with both males and females and would be an ideal start for Soccer Australia's merchandising push.

Technically it breaches the same ethnic colours criteria established by the league, but it only takes a little fancy

talking to turn the gold and green strip into a symbol of Australia.

Many of the shirts worn by teams in the A-League are mediocre at present, with the Melbourne Knights winning the title as the worst in red shirts last season that featured pink numbers on the back.

The numbers started the season as white, but some washing machine problems obviously took their toll.

The Knights kept on wearing them through to the title game and national exposure.

South Melbourne, are famous for changing their strip every year, but spent most of last season with numbers that were unreadable.

With fans expected to support the new designs with cash at the clothing stores, the obvious option for clubs is to run focus groups with supporters and select appropriate designs based on consumer appeal.

Let ABSW know your thoughts on strip designs for your team. More than ever this season, the clubs want you sporting their colours at the games.



Beto of Botafogo and Brazil: How long before an Ericsson League Club adopts the best-known strip in world football?

PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Utd	23	15	4	4	57	25	49
Altona Gate	23	16	1	6	54	24	49
Sunshine GX	23	15	3	5	35	24	48
Bentleigh Green	23	14	4	5	44	25	46
Thomastown Zeb	23	13	5	5	44	29	44
Green Gully	23	10	9	4	40	28	39
Port Melbourne	23	10	8	5	53	37	38
Bulleen	28	8	7	8	31	35	31
North Geelong	23	7	5	11	25	39	26
Box Hill Inter	23	5	5	13	25	50	20
St Albans	23	4	4	15	25	45	16

These statistics should be read in conjunction with the Greg Blake article in ABSW of July 30.

Current Premier League club's home and away records from 1992 (the first season of Premier League finals football) to the end of round 22, 1996. Table does not include finals games.

(ranking at home) & team	Home ground	Home pld	W	D	L	%	Away pld	W	D	L	%
(1) Pt Melbourne Sharks	Anderson Reserve	38	26	9	3	80.3	36	19	10	7	66.7
(2) Heidelberg United	Olympic Village	11	7	3	1	77.3%	11	7	1	3	68.2
(3) Bulleen Lions @	Vencio Club	62	30	23	9	66.9	64	28	18	18	57.8
(4) Altona Magic #	Paisley Park	63	34	15	14	65.9	68	25	13	25	50.0
(5) Sunshine Georgies ^	Chaplin Reserve	63	32	19	12	65.9	63	27	22	14	60.3
(6) Bentleigh Greens	Gardiners Reserve	11	6	2	3	63.6	11	8	2	1	81.8
(7) Nth Geelong Warriors +	Elcho Park	64	30	15	19	58.6	62	20	21	21	49.2
(8) Thomastown Zebras / *	Partridge Reserve	50	19	15	16	53.0	50	11	16	23	38.0
(9) Green Gully Cavaliers	Gr' Gully Reserve	62	21	23	18	52.4	64	24	21	19	53.9
(10) Albion Redsox <	Selwyn Park	63	23	16	24	49.2	63	19	17	27	43.7
(11) Fawkner Blues >	Jukes Road	63	21	18	23	47.6	63	22	16	25	47.6
(12) St Albans Saints	Churchill Reserve	63	23	11	29	45.2	63	13	19	31	35.7
(13) Springvale City Vales }	Ross Reserve	50	15	15	20	45.0	50	11	14	25	36.0
(14) Box Hill Inter {	Wembley Park	24	8	4	12	41.7	24	4	9	11	35.4

Note: of the current clubs in the Premier League continuously from 1992 only Green Gully has not had a home game shifted from its Gully Reserve-home base.

Cole Anger at Switch

BY CON STAVROS

Altona Magic coach Gary Cole did not appear to be a happy man after learning that his committee had decided to voluntarily transfer their possibly crucial final round match against fellow finalists Thomastown to Connor Reserve.

Home of State League title chasers and former National League side Preston Lions, Connor Reserve is hosting a double header on the final day of league play as part of club celebrations.

Preston will take on Lalor United in the first match, before the Magic clash with the Zebras.

Altona have made a financial decision to support the event by transferring the match against the Zebras across town and more importantly for Cole away from the wide lush turf of Paisley Park.

"It's something I'm not happy about. How you would give up a home game to play away is beyond me," said Cole of the switch.

"I don't make the final decision unfortunately."

"It's about making money and the club believe they can make money by playing the game out there."

"That's not my area. My job is to get the players out on the park and we'll play and we'll play well and we'll win,

we are just not happy about it."

Altona Magic are the defending champs and Cole admits the only real goal; the club could aim for after that

ago. Slipping to fourth would mean that Altona may face Thomastown in the last round of the season and then again the week after in the cut-



Gary Cole: Venues for matches not his area.

triumph was to repeat the dose.

"Our goal at the start of the season was to finish in top spot and if you can finish in the top three you get the double chance."

Cole remains worried about slipping to fourth spot on the table despite a gutsy away victory over highly rated Sunshine just over a week

throat elimination game.

"That game is always a tough physical encounter, so to play Thomastown twice in a fortnight is not something we want to do," says Cole of the possible clash.

"You have to do the hard work and hope you get the double chance so if you make a mistake you are still in with a chance."

Legend:

- * Played in Premier League from 1992-1994 as Thomastown.
 - Port has played two home games at Jukes Road.
 - @ Bulleen has played one home game each at Western Oval, Ross Reserve and Wembley Park.
 - # Altona has played one home game at the Veneto Club.
 - ^ Sunshine has played one home game at Olympic Park.
 - + Nth Geelong has played one home game at Ross Reserve.
 - / Thomastown has played one home game each at Jukes Road and Wembley Park.
 - < Albion has played one home game at Paisley Park and five home games at Connor Reserve.
 - > Fawkner has played one home game each at Olympic Park, Western Oval and Anderson Reserve.
 - { Box Hill has played one home game at the Veneto Club.
 - St Albans has played one home game each at the Veneto Club, Paisley Park and Green Gully Reserve.
 - } Springvale has played one home game each at Paisley Park and the Veneto Club.
- For the record, grounds hosting finals matches in 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 have been:
- Jukes Road (4); Chaplin Reserve (4); Middle Park (3); Paisley Park (3); Anderson Reserve (2); Western Oval (2); Connor Reserve (2); Olympic Park (1); Gully Reserve (1); Elcho Park (1); Veneto Club (1).
- Over that same period eleven clubs have appeared in the Premier League finals series, with the record of games played and hosted as below.

club	finals series '92-'95	finals played '92-'95	finals played at home	finals won at home	total finals hosted
Bulleen Lions	4	12	0	n/a	1
Fawkner Blues	2	6	2	1	4
Sunshine Georgies	3	7	2	2	4
North Geelong	2	5	1	0	1
Port Melbourne	2	6	1	0	2
Brunswick Juve	1	3	1	0	2
Preston Lions	1	2	1	1	2
St Albans Saints	1	1	0	n/a	0
Altona Magic	2	4	1	1	3
Green Gully Cavs	1	1	0	n/a	0
Albion Redsox	1	1	0	n/a	0

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



Atlanta 1996
TUE 4-11PM ACD



Atlanta 1996
TUE 4-11PM ACD

USA FIRST OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS

Early favourites USA have won through to become Women's Football's first ever Olympic gold medallists after defeating a determined China 2-1 in last Thursday's emotional final at Sanford Stadium.

Before a huge crowd of 76,481, a record for any women's sport, the home side who had also been the inaugural World Cup Champions, did not disappoint.

Just 19 minutes in, the home team were in the lead. Midfielder Kristine Lilly worked the ball up the left flank and sent in her cross. Mia Hamm's volley was destined for goal before Chinese keeper Gao Hong made a desperate lunge to parry the ball against the post. But the deadly Shannon MacMillan was on hand to pounce on the crumbs, her first time shot her third goal of the Olympics.

China hit back to level the scores in the 32nd minute, Sun Wen taking on the defence on the left before striking at goal over the advancing goalkeeper Brjana Scurry. With the keeper beaten, defender Brandi Chastain took chase but was unable to prevent the ball falling over the goal line.

In the thriller, USA looked in control for the most part, but China also impressed with quick combinations and supporting runs off the



The 'Wall of China' lines up for a free-kick.

ball.

Fifteen minutes after the break, USA appeared to step up another notch and were rewarded soon after. In the 68th minute, a Tiffeny Milbrett strike broke the deadlock in the do or die contest.

MacMillan this time set up the chance with a beautiful through ball for Joy Fawcett to get in behind the Chinese defence. From the right wing, Fawcett made her way towards goal before cutting the ball back for Milbrett. She needed only to tap the close range shot past keeper Gao, scrambling back into position after coming off her line to challenge Fawcett.

With the lead back in their favour, USA kept up their entertaining display, China needing to soak up a lot of pressure

to stay in the game.

But with neither side managing to add to their tally, the final whistle signalled a historic gold medal to USA, leaving China to settle for the silver.

"We trained all year for this and we knew our dividends were going to come today," said an elated MacMillan. "Not one person was going to let this team down. Everyone out there fought with their heart and soul."

"There's no word to describe how huge this is," said Chastain. This game means the world to women's soccer. We're so happy we could share this with our home crowd and the people of the world watching the Olympics. All we're looking to do is get more kids and fans involved

and have people really see it for how it is in its present form. It is a wonderful sport that everyone can play and participate in."

China's Gao was gallant in defeat. "To get to this match was all of our dreams. It is very disappointing that we lost though."

USA: Briana Scurry, Carla Overbeck, Brandi Chastain, Joy Fawcett, Shannon MacMillan, Julie Foudy, Kristine Lilly, Tisha Venturini, Mia Hamm (Carin Gararra 90), Michelle Akers, Tiffeny Milbrett (Tiffany Roberts 71).

CHINA: Gao Hong, Fan Yunjie, Wang Liping (Yu Honggi 87), Xie Huilin, Zhao Lihong, Shui Qingxia, Lui Ailing, Sun Qingmei, Liu Ying, Sun Wen, Shi Guihong (Wei Haiying 70).

NO LOVE LOST IN SEMIS

CHINA V BRAZIL

The two Olympic semi-finals were both tough torrid affairs, marred by the sending off of three players.

China asserted early authority in its semi against surprise opponent Brazil, scoring after just five minutes. Sun Qingmei drove her shot past the hapless Brazilian goalkeeper Meg from outside the box.

But Brazil, employing roughhouse tactics over their smaller opponents made the going tough. The more skilful and creative Chinese however managed to create numerous more scoring opportunities.

One such dangerous raid brought the worst out of Brazilian Tania as she struck out with a crude tackle to the midriff of a Chinese attacker.

Referee Ingrid Jonsson had no hesitation in showing the offender the red card two minutes before the break.

After the break, the importance of the match was illustrated with a second expulsion, this time China's Wen Lirong given a straight red.

Now back with even numbers, Brazil persisted and were rewarded for their efforts, producing two quick goals to turn the game around. Equal top scorer Pretinha added to her tally after 67 minutes, with the creative Roseli successful just five minutes later.

But the skilful China was not about to let its Olympic dream slip by and brought themselves back on track. With just seven minutes remaining, Wei Haiying produced a timely equaliser, then amazingly in the last minute, a second goal from Wei made her China's biggest hero, as she took her country into the Olympic final with an inspired last ditch spell.

USA V NORWAY

Host nation USA were under pressure to perform on home soil against their biggest rival and current World champions Norway.

The huge crowd were appreciative of the talent before them in what they had hoped would be the lineup for the gold medal match.

But after 17 minutes, the Americans found themselves a goal behind after a defensive error.

A player short at the time with defender Brandi Chastain receiving treatment on the sideline, Norway stole possession for Linda Medalen to easily finish off the chance.

The USA had picked up the pace but had to wait until the 76th minute before finding the equaliser, superstar Michelle Akers the scorer from the penalty spot after a handball in the box.

The US attack was proving too much for the Norwegians, who found themselves a player down after Agnete Catlsen was shown her second yellow card for the match after denying Mia Hamm a certain scoring opportunity with only the keeper to beat.

The scores remained level at the final whistle to send the match into extra time.

With the golden goal rule now in force, young substitute Shannon MacMillan became the hero after ten minutes, her strike earning the USA a shot at the golden medal, much to the delight of the parochial crowd.

Midfielder Julie Foudy took on the defence up the right before offloading to MacMillan, whose chipped strike floated into the top corner of the net.

WOMEN'S SOCCER A REAL HIT AT OLYMPICS

An American win at the sport's first ever Olympic appearance is more than a fitting end to a hugely successful tournament.

USA, regarded worldwide as the greatest team in terms of skill and professionalism, have done much for the current global surge in interest in the game.

The gold medal win here will have much greater ramifications in the marketing and wider publicity of women in football to the benefit of everyone. Despite the great strides already made, it is clear to all that the community at large is yet to be educated that females also play a fantastic brand of soccer.

A quick glance at the crowd statistics for the Olympic women's soccer tournament is proof of the growing acceptance and deserved respect the sport has worked to achieve. The tally of 76,481 spectators who turned out to witness the USA v China Olympic final is a new world record for a women's match.

The atmosphere created was unbelievable as the stadium filled with both men and women who had paid up to US \$130 a seat.

The fantastic crowd figure far and away smashed all previous records for the sport. At the inaugural World Cup in China in 1991, 65,000 fans watched the final. It is believed 70,000 turned out for a friendly between USA and a Chinese club side in August 1991.

"Just listen to them," said star Mia Hamm of the record crowd. "They're excited about the game. It's electrifying to play in front of everyone here and everyone enjoying themselves — that's what it's all about."

Over its five Olympic matches, the USA Team attracted over 232,000 fans. As a comparative figure, the men's 1992 Olympic soccer in Barcelona drew an overall total of 466,300.

OLYMPIC RANKINGS:

1. USA Gold Medal
2. China Silver Medal
3. Norway Bronze Medal
4. Brazil
5. Germany
6. Sweden
7. Japan
8. Denmark

NORWAY TAKE BRONZE

Norway's strikeforce scored two goals to earn her country the bronze medal against the physical Brazil.

Norway had the match under control from the opening whistle and were far more creative and dangerous in attack.

In the 21st minute, Brazilian sweeper Elane failed to control the ball, allowing striker Linda Medalen in with a sniff.

Taking on the keeper, Medalen ended up at a difficult shooting angle, and cleverly chipped to Aatones. From six metres, she made no mistake with her first time volley.

Just three minutes later, Aatones, top scorer at last year's World Cup, doubled the lead with a spectacular curling strike from 18

metres into the top far corner.

Brazil managed to hit the back of the net after 51 minutes, but the chance was ruled out with a call of handball.

Norway remained threatening in attack, but some fine work from Brazilian keeper Meg kept Norway to two.

NORWAY: Nordby, Espeseth, Nina Nymark-Andersen, Myklebust, Riise, Anne Mymark-Andersen, Tangeraas, Aarones (Frustrul 90), Pettersen (Haugen 90), Medalen, Sandaune.

BRAZIL: Meg, Suzy, Marisa, Sonia (Michael Jackson 71), Fanta, Taffarel (Katia 46), Elane, Formiga, Sissi (Nene 86), Pretinha, Roseli.

To celebrate our Australian Team's magnificent recent performances against Japan, and Olympic gold and silver medallists USA and China, Asics and ABSW bring you the chance to win something for yourself.

Get in your entry for a shot at winning one of three Australian Team Asics strips in the latest modern designs. The three best entries will win a full kit — shirt, shorts and socks.

The Asics strip has proved more than popular with the Australian Team members, with the range now extended to three designs.

All three feature the AWSA logo in a different and striking way. The fashionable favourite has been the blue and emerald stripe jersey with the logo sublimated on the fabric through each emerald stripe.

The white version is

Win an Australian Women's Kit by ASICS



Lisa Casagrande: Sporting one of the three Australian Team ASICS strips.

anything but plain with its large centrepiece 'watermark' logo embossed across the front.

The newest addition is the gold shirt, a long sleeve jersey with a trio of AWSA logos emblazoned diagonally down

the front and the Asics name logo throughout the material.

All three will keep you in the fashion stakes with the grandpa collar finish.

Even if you're not a winner here, you can still get your hands on this merchandise.

Asics are now stocking retail sports shops so you can look the part as a supporter of Australian women's soccer. In Canberra, the gear is available at Sportsman's Warehouse and the International Soccer Shop. Wherever you are, make enquires with your favourite sports store.

For your chance to win, tell us who your favourite female soccer player is and why. Please limit your entry to fifty words or less.

The three entries judged as the best will each win an Asics kit — shirt, shorts and socks.

To complete your entry, please make sure you add your name, telephone number, address, and age.

Entries must be received by Friday 23 August 1996 at the following mail address:—

Women's Writes Asics Competition,
9B/18 Lucy Street,
Ashfield NSW 2131.



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



DIEGO THREATENS TO LEAVE BOCA JUNIORS ONCE AGAIN

Diego Armando Maradona (right) is once again the centre of attention in Argentina. The polemic and aging soccer star issued a new warning to Boca Juniors president Mauricio Macri; keep outstanding young midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron in the squad and buy Velez Sarsfield's prolific scorer Jose Flores otherwise he will leave the club.

The problem is that Veron, who missed the Argentine Olympic team, could be transferred to Italian First Division club Sampdoria and Flores already passed the medical examination with his new team, Las Palmas, from the Spanish Second Division.

"If Veron is transferred to Sampdoria and Boca doesn't buy Flores, I will leave the club," said Maradona after the team's arrival from China where Boca Juniors played two friendly internationals against local teams, winning both matches.

"I hope Macri will put up the money to keep Veron and bring Flores before it is too late. I understand Flores passed the medical examination at Las Palmas, but the Spanish club hasn't paid Velez Sarsfield one cent yet. So we have to move very quickly," added the former Argentine national team captain.

Maradona, who was rumoured to be joining a Japanese J League club for a reported \$US20 million, denied such a move.

Meanwhile, Macri announced the signing of Tenerife's attacking



one point ahead of Boca Juniors and Gimnasia y Esgrima of La Plata, with only three rounds to go.

midfielder Diego Latorre, and strikers Sebastian Rambert from Inter Milan and Silvio Carrario from Argentine first division giant Racing Club.

Latorre played for Boca Juniors before his stint in European soccer, and Sebastian Rambert was one of the Argentine rising stars with former Supercup champions Independiente before his transfer to the Italian club.

The Argentine league second phase will resume next weekend with Lanus and Velez Sarsfield leading the competition,

"STUDENTS" WIN THE CHILEAN DERBY

Universidad de Chile, winner of the Chilean national football league for the last two years, defeated arch-rival Colo Colo, 1-0, in the local derby, played at Santiago's National Stadium in front of a crowd of 65,000.

The only goal of the match was scored by striker Rodrigo Goldberg in the 67th minute.

Universidad, coached by former Argentine international Miguel Russo, dominated the encounter for most of the game taking advantage of Colo Colo's mistakes in midfield and creating several chances to score. The heroics of goalkeeper Marcelo Ramirez prevented Colo Colo being swamped.

UNIVERSIDAD OF CHILE: Vargas, C. Castaneda; Traverso, Romero, Ponce, Musri, V. Castaneda (J. Ramirez 72), Acevellido (Riffo 46), Rodriguez,

Goldberg, Silvani (Sanchez 66).

Coach: Miguel Angel Russo.

COLO COLO: M. Ramirez, Fernandez, Reyes, Emerson, Henriquez (Avila 87), Salas, Espina, Lobos, Barticciotto (Sierra 68), Vergara (Tapia 63), Basay.

Coach: Gualberto Jara.

After 16 rounds Colo Colo leads the competition with 35 points followed by Universidad de Chile with 30, Universidad Catolica 29, Cobreloa 27, Antofagasta 25, Palestino 24, Coquimbo 23, Huachipato and Wanderers 22, Audz Italiano 21, Osorno 19, Temuco 16, Atacama and Union Espanola 15, O Higgins 10.

The highest scorer of the competition is Santiago Wanderers striker Mario Vener with 17 goals, followed by Ivo Basay (Colo Colo) 14 and Daniel Pascoli (Antofagasta) 11.

Penarol and Independiente after Cedres

Uruguayan international, attacking midfielder Gabriel Cedres, who's currently playing for Copa Libertadores champion River Plate of Argentina, could go back to his former club, Uruguayan champion, Penarol of Montevideo.

According to unofficial sources, Cedres, who played in the final of the major competition at club level in South America, against America of Colombia, and was one of the best players on the park, could be left out of next season's squad by River's controversial coach Ramon Diaz.

The sources added that Diaz and Cedres never had a good relationship, and his future may be linked to Penarol.

Penarol's president, Jose Damiani, who travelled to Buenos Aires to have discussions with River Plate officials showed great interest in having Cedres back in his team.

Cedres scored Uruguay's only goal against Colombia, in Barranquilla for the South American 1998 World Cup qualifying rounds, when the Uruguayans lost 3-1. The player said that if Ramon Diaz decides not to keep him he will be very happy to go back to his former club.

"I would like to continue my career with River Plate, but if Diaz doesn't want me I will be happy to play for Penarol. It will be an honour to go back to the club who gave me the opportunity to be somebody in

football," said Cedres.

However, another club interested in Cedres is none other than Independiente of Argentina. The "red devils" are looking for a striker or an attacking midfielder to strengthen its squad for next season.

Independiente offered River Plate \$US900,000 for half of Cedres transfer fee and if the club wants to keep him, after one year, it will have to pay another \$US900,000.

The final decision about Cedres' destiny will be known in the next few days, after meetings between River Plate officials and the two clubs interested in the skilful footballer.

URUGUAYAN LEAGUE

Current Uruguayan champion, Penarol made its debut in the Uruguayan football league second phase, with a 3-0 away victory over Sud America. The match, played at Paysandu's Artigas Stadium, attracted 20,000 spectators. Midfielder Danilo Batierra and Uruguayan international strikers Luis Romero and Haverley Sosa scored for Penarol.

Meanwhile, the other Uruguayan giant, Nacional, defeated central Espanol 1-0 with a goal scored by Juan Rabera.

In other matches, Rampla Junior drew 1-1 with Huracan Buceo; Liverpool and Cerro finished 0-0; Defensor Sporting beat River Plate 1-0 and Danubio thrashed Wanderers 4-1.

IN BRIEF

*Midfielder Nestor Gorosito, who played for the last six months with Japanese J League club Yokohama Marinos, will return to his former club San Lorenzo of Argentina.

*Gorosito, a former Argentine international, who played for San Lorenzo and went to Japan together with striker Alberto Acosta, had a successful campaign with Chilean first division team Universidad Catolica before moving to Yokohama.

*Independiente's coach Humberto Grondona, the son of Argentine Football Association president Julio Grondona, wanted to sign defender Manuel Aguilar and striker Miguel Palermo, both from Estudiantes de La Plata, and midfielder Sergio Berti, who currently plays for Colombian club America of Cali.

*Estudiantes asked US\$2.3 million for the talented Palermo, and the "red devils" weren't very keen to pay such amount of money.

*Osvaldo Piazza replaced Carlos Bianchi as coach of Argentine champions Velez Sarsfield until the end of the current season. Bianchi is the new manager of Italian club AC Roma.

*In the last two months Velez not only lost its coach but also two of its most influential players: talented defender Roberto Tiotta, who went to AC Roma with Bianchi, and Jose Flores to Las Palmas.

*After another unsuccessful season, Racing Club could have a new coach. Miguel Brindisi, who failed to guide the team to win the Argentine soccer league, may leave the club at the end of the tournament. His replacement...1994 Argentine World Cup coach Alfio Basile.

*Brindisi has an offer to take over the coaching position with Ecuadorian club

Barcelona.

*Union of Santa Fe won promotion to the Argentine first division after its 3-1 victory over Instituto de Cordoba.

*One of the greatest players of all times, Alfredo Di Stefano, celebrated his 70th birthday recently.

*Di Stefano, the "blond arrow", played for Argentine club River Plate from 1947 to 1949, Millionarios of Colombia from 1949 to 1952, and Real Madrid from 1953 and 1962, winning with the Spanish big gun six European club championships and one Inter Continental Cup.

*In 1956 the prestigious soccer magazine "France Football" named Di Stefano "Player of the Year."

*Former Colombian international striker Alberio Uzuriaga, who is currently playing for Ecuadorian first division club Barcelona de Guayaquil could return to Independiente of Argentina instead of going to Botafogo of Brazil.

*The match between Chile and Argentina for the South American 1998 World Cup qualifying rounds, scheduled for September 1997 will be played at the Chilean city of Calama, instead of Santiago's national stadium. The reason...the altitude.

*Argentina performed badly against Ecuador in Quito, 2,800 metres above sea level, and Calama's is 2,200 metres above sea level.

*Leonardo Rodriguez, the former Argentine international midfielder, who is having a great season with Chilean champion Universidad de Chile, could be recalled by Passarella for the match against Paraguay, next September 1.

*Rodriguez was a member of the Argentine squad, winner of the 1991 and 1993 Copa America, and played in the 1994 World Cup in USA.

*Former Brazilian national team star Zico, said after Brazil's surprising defeat by

Nigeria in the semi-finals of the Olympic Games, that Zagalo's team lacked the leadership qualities of a player like Romario.

"*A team like Brazil, leading 3-1 midway through the second half, can't allow the opposition to take control of the match. It was incredible to go down in "sudden death" without spirit and determination. I still don't believe it," said Zico.

"*If we had a player with a strong character and personality like Romario, we

could have won the match against the Nigerians. A team with players like Bebeto and Aldair, who are world champions, lacked such qualities and lost its way after Nigeria levelled the score before the end of the 90 minutes. It was a big shock going down like that," added Zico.

*Meanwhile, Romario attributed the defeat to a great fatality.

"*Brazil didn't have much luck, it was a great fatality. Now we have to look forward and prepare our team to defend the world

title in France 98," said Romario.

*He also praised Nigeria for their determination and will to win, with a special mention to striker Kanu for his skills and great finishing.

**La Paz
okay with
FIFA**

After a 55-minute discussion on the question of matches being played at high altitudes, the Executive Committee of FIFA followed a recommendation put forward by the Sports Medical Committee by deciding to prescribe a period of ten days for teams to acclimatise in preparation for matches above 3,000 metres. A number of South American associations had objected to World Cup matches being staged in the Bolivian town of La Paz (3,650 m above sea level). After examining the facts, the Executive Committee agreed to a request from Bolivia to continue to have games held in La Paz but only on condition that the Bolivian association bore full responsibility for the safety of its own delegation as well as the of the visiting association and of FIFA officials. It will also be required to conclude a special insurance to cover risks for matches played at high altitudes.



Romario: Player of his character and personality was needed for Brazil to beat Nigeria at the Olympics.

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NATIONWIDE DIVISION ONE

BARNSELY: A fair season for a club with a small following. Manager Danny Wilson has worked wonders on a limited budget but Premiership football looks well beyond the side. Cannot compete in the market place which they must do in order to progress. Outside bet for one of the play-off spots.

Last season: 10th. This term: MB — 17th SJ — 11th.

BIRMINGHAM CITY:

Trevor Francis is now back at his old stomping ground, in charge of the club where it all began for him. With the calibre of players like Barry Horne, Steve Bruce and Gary Ablett in the side, should go better in this campaign. Trevor, the Jasper Carrot look-alike, didn't make an impressive start to his managerial career when the power seemed to go to his head but has knuckled down to the job in hand and has a bright future in the job.

Were after Jean-Pierre Papin but cannot find a company to sponsor the player thus enabling them to buy him. Have since signed Paul Furlong instead. Too good to down if they get together early on. Might challenge early on.

Last season: 15th. This term: MB — 9th SJ — 1st.



Steve Bruce: Will beef-up the Brum back-line.

BOLTON WANDERERS: Have lost Alan Stubbs to Celtic but have so far kept striker Curcio on the books. Had an awful year in the Premiership and will want to forget it as soon as possible

and set the record straight. Will need to rebuild a side capable of mixing it with the big boys and that word "consolidation" rears its head again.

Last season: bottom of the Premiership. This term: MB — 14th SJ — 9th.

BRADFORD CITY:

Managed by former Sheffield United player Chris Kamara, a small side with great aspirations but little hope in all honesty. Could surprise a few and be the early "bolter" of the division but will fall away from a serious title challenge by November. Most likely to "do a Millwall" after reaching the First Division via the play-offs.

Last season: 6th in Division Two. This term: MB — 24th SJ — and again.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC:

Real surprise packages last term but dropped away when it really counted. Lost to Crystal Palace in the play-offs. Also lost long time stalwart Garry Nelson in the off-season along with starlets like Lee Bowyer to Leeds United for \$5m. The cash will certainly come in handy with the rebuilding process for another assault on the title.

Last season: 6th. This term: MB — 6th SJ — 8th.

CRYSTAL PALACE:

Harry Bassett will be disappointed his lads did not go straight up through the play off final but that has to be put to one side now and a new campaign has to begin. It will be hard put if they use last season as an incentive, Palace could do very well. Certainly will be one of the big guns of the division, and should look to starting strongly this season. Outside bet for the title.

Last season: 3rd. This term: MB — 3rd SJ — 4th.

GRIMSBY TOWN:

Their run early last term was encouraging for the side but they fell away and they need to be consistent right across the season if they are going to be pushing for promotion. Too small a club to make an impact in the Premier, Grimsby may have to be happy with mid-table anonymity, otherwise they have "Haddock" (had it...get it?)

Last season: 17th. This term: MB — 12th SJ — 16th.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN:

Combined Season Previews English & Scottish

Brian Horton did a great job, like so many managers before, with a side on limited resources. The club has seen it's star striker move to Sheffield Wednesday, although they have replaced him with Marcus Stewart of Bristol Rovers. Could be that last season was a peak for the club, although their ambition cannot be doubted. Many of the big guns know what to expect from the Terriers this time around and maybe surprise was their biggest and best weapon last term, which they no longer have in the armoury.

Last season: 8th. This term: MB — 10th SJ — 10th.

IPSWICH TOWN:

Always a good performer, this East Anglian club outshone neighbours Norwich in their first season after dropping from the Premier. Avoiding the controversy that has surrounded Carrow Road, George Burley has built the platform for a successful campaign this time around. Many of the old stagers continue to stand by the club and this can only be of benefit to the youngsters.

Last season: 7th. This term: MB — 4th SJ — 15th.

MANCHESTER CITY:

Of course all at Maine Road were devastated at losing PL status and will be doing everything in their power to recover it. Seen as strong favourites especially with Georgian, Kinkladze, gracing midfield and Uwe Rosler, now staying with the side after strong rumour of a transfer, firing on all cylinders up front. Niall Quinn's injury problems seem behind him, however a question mark remains over the future of captain Keith Curle. Perhaps a season in the lower division will see them all the better for it, and the chance to mix it with neighbours United the following year will be the carrot before the donkey.

Last season: 18th in PL. This term: MB — 1st SJ — 2nd.

NORWICH CITY:

An exceedingly disappointing term that was dogged by controversy. Chairman Robert Chase has finally stepped down, much to the joy of the fans. The prodigal son, Mike Walker, has returned after a brief sojourn on Merseyside. Whether he can pull the club out of the mire at first time of asking is yet to be seen but may well be beyond him and PL football still looks a long way off for now.

Last season: 16th. This term: MB — 16th SJ — 12th.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC:

A club of "wannabees" since the heady days of top flight football, just a few years back. Have since had troubles but avoided yet another relegation, which is the likely battle facing them this season. Boundary Park continues to be one of the poorest surfaces in the league but there is plenty of room for expansion, if they ever find a reliable support base to fill it?

Last season: 18th. This term: MB — 21st SJ — 21st also.

OXFORD UNITED:

Finally made it back to Division One and watch out for some interesting encounters with Reading and Swindon this year. Won't be unhappy at swapping places with Watford but won't want it to happen again this time around. May show strongly early season but if not, it will be a long hard road to campaigns end against this class of opposition.

Last season: 2nd in Div 2. This term: MB — 20th SJ — 23rd.

PORT VALE:

Because of the closeness of the division, were both fighting for promotion and against relegation at the same time. Managed to pull away from the ensuing dog-fight in the last six games to finish a comfortable mid-table team. Rivals Stoke City continue to make the headlines within the Potteries region and nothing would give them greater

pleasure than to reverse this trend but on present standings at least, that would seem implausible.

Last season: 12th. This term: MB — 15th SJ — 22nd.

PORTSMOUTH:

Is Terry Venables going to join good friends, the Gregory family and owners of the Fratton Park side, in running the club or not? If he is, things are looking up for this south coast club but the whole future could hang on this one question. If Venables arrives, names will too. Paul Walsh needs to return to form quickly and avoid injury if they are to have a comfortable year.

Last season: 21st This term: MB — 22nd SJ — 19th.

QUEENS PARK

RANGERS: Ray Wilkins was a very sad man at the culmination of the 1995/96 season but has his sights firmly fixed on a quick return to the top flight for the Shepherds Bush based club. With rumour gathering pace that star midfielder Trevor Sinclair may not be there come the start of season, something the club is reacting to strongly when denying. With the drop, it will be hard

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Last season: 18th. This term: MB — 21st SJ — 21st also.

OXFORD UNITED:

Finally made it back to Division One and watch out for some interesting encounters with Reading and Swindon this year. Won't be unhappy at swapping places with Watford but won't want it to happen again this time around. May show strongly early season but if not, it will be a long hard road to campaigns end against this class of opposition.

Last season: 2nd in Div 2. This term: MB — 20th SJ — 23rd.

PORT VALE:

Because of the closeness of the division, were both fighting for promotion and against relegation at the same time. Managed to pull away from the ensuing dog-fight in the last six games to finish a comfortable mid-table team. Rivals Stoke City continue to make the headlines within the Potteries region and nothing would give them greater

to keep the better players on board but Wilkins has the ability to turn it around...if not the funds.

Last season: 19th in PL. This term: MB — 5th SJ — 3rd.

READING:

Aussies Lovell and Bernal will have a strong say on the success of this side. Co-Managers Quinn and Gooding have held onto the top jobs despite last season's dramatic drop in performance. That could be put down to a negative reaction after the heady heights of being 2-0 up in the Division One play off final the previous year.

This year the club will again face the normal money

problems, however the Elm Park faithful will be hoping to discover more talent like Shaka Hislop to guide them back up to the top of the table.

Last Season: 19th. This term: MB — 19th SJ — 13th.

SHEFFIELD UNITED:

A full season under Howard Kendall and with money to spend should see the Blades fighting for a position in the PL. Player strength has increased and the fight for positions within the team plus the skills of Kendall as manager should be enough to see the supporters coming back to Bramall Lane in their droves. If there isn't there has to be some question over the future of the whole club.

Last Season: 9th. This term: MB — 11th SJ — 5th.

SOUTHEND UNITED:

Ronnie Whelan did a fine job as manager of the club last year although a few losses at the end saw them out of the running for a play-off spot. Will be looking to perform even better this time and reach a level of consistency lacking last term. Player depth may be a problem for the club though.

Last Season: 14th. This term: MB — 18th SJ — 9th.

STOKE CITY:

Did really well last season and will be looking to build on that remarkable progress. Lou Macari is now directing things from upstairs and has clearly got a lot of his hand still on the steering wheel. Should do well again this term with the whole Red and White half of the Potteries buzzing. Need to start strongly and maintain the impetus to see them through the heavy Christmas and New Year program.

Last Season: 4th. This term: MB — 2nd SJ — 7th.

SWINDON TOWN:

Swindon have been up, down, down again and then back up in the last four seasons. Looking for a solid consolidation period this year. Steve McMahon has done a remarkable job with the club, who only now seem to be getting over their Premiership drubbing of a couple of season's ago. It's been a long hard struggle along the way, one they probably wish they had not gone through, they would rather have followed the Leicester City path instead.

Last Season: 1st in Division Two. This term MB — 7th SJ 13th.

TRANMERE ROVERS:

Last season was a poor one for the club with such high aims. The ground is being prepared for Premiership football, not that of the Second Division which some of the performances depicted. John King has moved upstairs and John Aldridge has become

player manager, one of many ex Liverpool Players to now do so. He'll be hoping to emulate the success of Keegan, Dalglish et al.

Last Season: 13th. This term MB — 13th SJ — 15th.

WEST BROMWICH

ALBION: The Throstles have strikingly different openings in the previous two seasons but the end result of a mid-table finish has remained the same. If they put together last season's good start with the previous season's good finish, Alan Buckley's Grimsby, whoops I mean WBA side (well he did take many of his players with him!) would be up there fighting for promotion alongside neighbours Birmingham City.

Last Season: 11th. This term MB — 23rd SJ — 14th.



Steve Corica: Part of the Aussie connection at Molineux.

WOLVERHAMPTON

WANDERERS: Mark McGhee took over a side in turmoil and almost took them to the play-offs, before once again falling into the relegation fight. He remains under much pressure to turn the clubs fortunes around. With a huge following that believes Premiership football is a right and not a privilege for a team of their standing, things need to change significantly on the pitch and quickly. Steve Corica went from Leicester to Wolves with McGhee and should be a good foil for a fully fit Steve Bull.

Last season: 20th This term: MB — 8th SJ — 6th.

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

AIRDRIEONIANS: Dodgy year and nothing there to suggest this term will be any different. May avoid relegation but only for the fact that there may be some worse teams in this league and not for their standard of play. A



Uwe Roster: Continuing the German connection at Maine Road begun by Bert Trautmann.

year of immense struggle.

Last season: 8th. This term: MB — 7th SJ — 8th.

CLYDEBANK: Financially speaking, talk of another Third Lanark scenario, who were the last club to resign from the Scottish League. Sure to affect performances on the field. Their supporters, instead of shouting out "Wet, Wet, Wet" will probably scream "Drop, Drop, Drop!"

Last Season: 7th. This Term: MB — 8th SJ — 9th.

DUNDEE: As sick as a parrot seeing their big cross street rivals United making the big time last term via the play-offs. Will want to re-dress that balance of power but there is some dispute about their ability to do so, according to some pundits!

Last Season: 5th. This term: MB — 9th (and lucky to get that) SJ — 1st (by a clear 20 points).



FA CARLING PREMIER LEAGUE

ARSENAL: Much consternation from the supporters as the other London clubs seem to be buying up big time but North London remains quiet on the transfer front (at time of writing). Back in Europe after taking the last UEFA Cup spot on the last day of the season, watch for an early exit in the League Cup. Turmoil still abounds as rumours persist Rioch has not yet signed his contract after 12 months in the job. Expect a couple of signings before or early in the term.

Last season: 5th. This term: MB — 3rd SJ 4th.

ASTON VILLA: Exceptional showing last term with some beautiful footie and silverware in the shape of the League Cup to show for it. Dwight Yorke had his best season ever and will need to repeat that if the Villians are to remain a force to be reckoned with. Another club in the UEFA Cup next term which could sidetrack them from the job in hand but sound foundations were built for a decent assault on the title. Doubtful if they have the depth in strength to achieve it though.



Mark Bosnich: (Aston Villa) Aussie last-line of defence in a team built for an assault on the title.

Last season: 3rd. This term: MB — 4th SJ — 3rd (again)

PARTICK THISTLE: Thistle be a great year if they return to the top flight and it's certainly not beyond them to do so. However, they remain on the "Jagged" edge whilst finding out.

Last season: 9th in PL. This term: MB — 2nd SJ — 5th.

ST JOHNSTONE: Finished just one win away from second spot on the ladder and will look to repeat that performance in the diminished hope and opportunity of returning to Premiership fitba. As with nearly all clubs in lower divisions, an influx of cash wouldn't go amiss but they remain dark horses for the title.

Last season: 4th. This term: MB — 3rd SJ — 2nd.

ST MIRREN: Average performance from a side remembering past glories of top flight fitba and great cup-ties. Life for their fans is seen through rose coloured glasses and so it will remain.

Last season: 6th. This term: MB — 5th SJ — 6th.

STIRLING ALBION:

Promoted some 14 points ahead of second placed East Fife, losing only three games along the way as they netted 83 goals. Will find life hard amongst the bigger boys but should hold their own and survive. Manager Kevin Drinkwell knows how to get the best out of his players and will have them pumped up for the opening games.

Last season: Champs of Div 2. This term: MB — 6th SJ — 7th.



Chris Sutton: (Blackburn Rovers) May get a regular spot now that the centre forward has gone.



Ruud Gullit: (Chelsea) Takes over the reigns at Chelsea from new England boss Glenn Hoddle.

Last season: 4th. This term: MB — 6th SJ — 5th.

BLACKBURN ROVERS: Started very poorly after taking the Championship the



Eoin Jess: (Coventry City) Another 'canny' Scot' at Highfield Road.

previous term. Quality of football was ordinary, to be kind, and their showing in Europe was well below par. With interest in top scorer Alan Shearer shown by free spending Man Utd, will Rovers be able to hang on to their prize asset? Their counter bid for Cantona must be seen as a bit of "tongue in cheek" really. Chris Sutton may make a few appearances this term if not sold beforehand. Hard to see them in the running.

Last season: 7th. This term: MB — 10th SJ — 6th.

CHELSEA: Ruud Gullit takes over the reins from Glenn Hoddle and entices Juventus veteran Gianluca Vialli to the Bridge. Vialli was part of Juves Champions Cup winning side last term and no stranger to knocking the ball in, something Chelsea have had trouble doing with any regularity of late. In comes Frenchman le Beuf (Beefy to his mates) who will be an



Dennis Bergkamp: (Arsenal) Must be hoping to lead the boys from Highbury to honours.



Gianluca Vialli: (Chelsea) Enticed to the Bridge by Ruud Gullit.

asset to the squad. Expect an early season charge with the side being thereabouts for most of the season making life difficult for the top teams. Good cup prospect once more.

Last season: 11th. This term: MB — 8th SJ — 8th.

COVENTRY CITY: Avoided relegation on goal difference and another long hard year ahead for the Sky Blues. Very hard to see where



Igor Stimac: (Derby County) The drop looms large for the Croatian at Derby, before a ball has even been kicked.

they will get the inspiration cash to ensure Premiership football in 1997/98 but with a manager like Ron "Mr Bojangles" Atkinson and canny Scot Gordon Strachan at the helm, could well beat the drop but only just. Strachan's "never say die" attitude will ensure they'll fight all the way to the final whistle.

Last season: 16th. This term: MB — 17th SJ — 17th.

DERBY COUNTY: The first of the promoted sides to get a mention but don't have the squad of the others to look a viable proposition. Will fight hard but the drop is looming large before a ball is even kicked. A decent run in a cup or two is the best they will achieve this term. Have signed the exciting midfielder Christian Dailly from Dundee United for a very small fee but more players are needed.

The Rams are moving to a new ground this season, and about time too.

Last Season: 2nd in Div One. This term: MB — 20th SJ — 16th.

UK STORIES

Alan Shearer — \$30 million man

Transfer fee called obscene

England star Alan Shearer's world record \$A30 million transfer fee was last week described as obscene and madness.

Premier League title aspirant Newcastle has shelled out the record price for Shearer in a bid to break a 70-year championship drought.

But commentators questioned the value of paying such an enormous fee for the Blackburn Rovers striker.

British Trade Union Council president Margaret Prosser said English soccer was in danger of losing touch with the fans.

"A \$15 million price tag on one man's head is obscene even if he is a nice man and a great player," Ms Prosser told the London Daily Mirror newspaper.

"How can you say Shearer's fee is worth 1250 nurses or 2500 hospital cleaners or vast numbers of others who perform vital public services?"

The British Guardian editorial said top soccer players were now no more than guns for hire and it questioned Shearer's loyalty even though he comes from the Newcastle area and supported the club in his youth.

"Shearer may claim undying Tyneside roots but a subversive rumour claims that he was in fact a Sunderland fan as a boy," The Guardian said.

"At the last count, the Newcastle team contained more players from continental Europe than from what was

dubbed England's cauldron of football."

Shearer's fee eclipsed the \$A26.4 million previous world record Barcelona paid PSV Eindhoven for Brazilian Ronaldo, while it almost doubled the \$A16.9 million British record Liverpool paid Nottingham Forest for Stan Collymore.

Winning the championship and titles in Europe will be the shortcut for recouping the money paid by Newcastle, which has spent more than \$A100 million on players in

recent years.

While Newcastle wants to build a new stadium to replace 37,000-capacity St James's Park in a long term move to increase revenue, its main source of new income will come from television fees and merchandising.

Pay television network British Sky Broadcasting (BSkyB) has helped generate huge revenue for leading clubs since it started televising the Premier League four years ago.

Newcastle has earned about

\$6million a year from Sky, but that could climb towards \$A20million under the new \$A1.3billion Premier League contract with BSkyB.

Pay per view cable television looms as a nice earner for ambitious English soccer clubs.

Clubs have also done a roaring trade in player shirts with Shearer's new Newcastle no. 9 flying off the shelves since yesterday.

But Newcastle will have to sell almost 350,000 of them to recoup Shearer's fee.



Alan Shearer: "Gun for hire." His loyalty is questioned.

Giggs praises Shearer's decision to put England before Europe

Manchester United star Ryan Giggs is adamant the decision of \$A30 million man Alan Shearer not to play in Italy is clear evidence England is now the world's major soccer league.

Giggs believes Shearer, who top scored with five goals at Euro 96 in June, will set a trend and other big names will choose to stay within England's shores.

Welsh winger Giggs has himself been linked with a multi-million move abroad since bursting onto the scene as a 17-year-old.

But five years on he remains adamant that England is the place to be, especially with the Premier League becoming ever more powerful.

"The amount of talent in the Premiership is frightening," said Giggs.

"Last season there was an influx in foreign players and the same is happening again this year.

"There are quality players coming here from abroad to add to the topline British players. It is all about personal views, but I think the Premiership is the toughest and best league in the world."

Giggs could have been playing in the San Siro stadium today when United met Inter Milan in a friendly

arranged as part of Paul Ince's \$A14 million move to the Italian giant last northern summer.

But he has stayed behind for extra treatment on a hamstring strain and misses a reunion with his former teammate and close friend, whom he will meet up with when Inter comes to Old Trafford for the return match in a fortnight.

Giggs remains in no doubt that his own future lies at Old Trafford, and is ready for the

challenge of trying to repeat United's achievements last season.

"I was part of the first Double-winning team in 1993 and that was some occasion, but to do it again was brilliant.

"Now we know we must carry on from that this season. We know what is expected from us and must do even better," he said, clearly with his sights on the European Cup which is no doubt a priority for everyone at United this term.



Ryan Giggs: "The amount of talent in the Premiership is frightening."

TV FEES PUSHING SPENDING

Alan Shearer's move to Newcastle last week offered further evidence that the English premier league is taking over from Italy's Serie A as Europe's centre of soccer excess.

Elite clubs like Newcastle, Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea now have the financial clout and ambition to not only compete for the best players on the continent but to ensure home-grown talent stays in the country.

Bolstered by cash from a lucrative new deal with Sky Television and an ever-growing army of sponsors, the premier league is in overdrive.

And Shearer's move will not be the last multi-million pound transfer deal.

Not so long ago, the next step for a successful English player like Shearer would have been a move abroad, to the soccer giants of Italy or Spain.

But now — at least as far as money is concerned, there is no need.

Double-winners Manchester United, despite deals with Czech European championship star Karel Poborsky and Dutch forward Jordi Cruyff to play alongside Frenchman Eric Cantona and inspirational Welsh winger Ryan Giggs, were ready to lay out \$A24million for Shearer.

But Newcastle, able to guarantee the striker a warm welcome in the northeast

where he was born, still managed to trump them.

Manager Kevin Keegan now has to decide what to do with Shearer's England team mate Les Ferdinand and Colombia's Faustino Asprilla — players he bought for a combined total of \$A27million.

Such is the extent of Newcastle's funding that Keegan may keep them both, although Ferdinand has already been linked with a London club.

Even previously modest premier league outfits like Coventry City and Sheffield Wednesday have gone to the transfer market to boost their chances of taking titles.

Coventry spent \$A6million on Scotland captain Gary McAllister, while Wednesday coaxed Attilio Lombardo from Juventus for \$A8million.

Newcastle's neighbours Middlesbrough lured Fabrizio Ravanelli from Juventus for \$A14million, joining Brazilians Juninho, Emerson and Branco.

The bandwagon started two years ago when Tottenham bought German international striker Juergen Klinsmann from Monaco.

His success encouraged Dutchman Ruud Gullit to join Chelsea.

Gullit has now succeeded Glenn Hoddle as manager and persuaded Gianluca Vialli, Roberto Di Matteo and

French defender Franck Leboeuf to move, while Romanian Florin Raducioiu has gone to London rivals West Ham.

Football in England is enjoying its biggest wave of popularity in decades.

For the moment at least, it appears nothing can halt the influx of money and players into the game.



Faustino Asprilla: Could be struggling for a regular place.

tickets.

"That was before Shearer signed, so you can probably double the figure. If you are an ambitious club then 36,000 is just not enough. We must cater for a new generation of fans and are working very hard off the park on these things."

Football clubs — lucrative investment

Football die-hards may hate it but Britain's increasingly close matching of media and soccer is expected to make its Premier League one of the world's most lucrative industries of the next decade.

Digital television and pay-TV channels, will bring even more cash flooding into a British game already awash with money, media and leisure analysts said.

Deals such as the signing of Alan Shearer by Newcastle United this week will eventually be eclipsed by deals closer to the \$US100 million signings seen in US sport, they added.

"The potential is huge," said Michael Hilton, an analyst at brokerage Kleinwort Benson.

"Leisure spending is increasing all the time, particularly on things like football which seem to have universal appeal."

The creation of the Premier

League four years ago and the decision by British Sky Broadcasting — 40 per cent-owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp — to make football one of its programming focuses, have made Britain's top 20 clubs among the richest in Europe.

With each club expected to receive \$A20 million a year from the \$A1,341.6 million, BSkyB package from next year onwards television rights alone are expected to finance the expansion of plush, all-seater stadiums.

Analysts said this would accelerate an existing trend for British football to capture new audiences outside its traditionally all-male, working-class supporters.

"Football's almost becoming middle-class. Entertaining corporate clients at football is now acceptable, whereas before it always had to be cricket," Hilton said.

The new more affluent fans are also snapping up merchandise to such an extent

that clubs such as Manchester United enjoy revenues from that source to rival their gate receipts.

Dale Thorpe, soccer analyst at chartered accountants Deloitte Touche, said TV rights and merchandise now meant that football clubs were viable long-term investments.

"We'll probably see all of the Premier clubs listed either on the main stock market or on AIM (the Alternative Investments Market) in the next few years."

Once suffering a reputation for dubious dealings ranging from bribery to tax evasion, football has largely cleaned up its act and top clubs have installed strong management.

But what clubs like Manchester Utd and Tottenham Hotspur have achieved so far as businesses, with both doubling their share price since the start of the year, might only be the tip of the iceberg, some analysts believe.

Plans for Newcastle's new ground

Newcastle United's multi-millionaire owner Sir John Hall said last week he envisaged a 60,000-seater stadium for the club in the wake of the record-signing of

England striker Alan Shearer.

Newcastle has already voiced hopes to move from St James' Park, where it has 10,000 fans on the waiting list for season

"I think the figure of 60,000 would be realistic for a new stadium. If we got that for every match it would be tremendous."

Kevin Keegan, speaking in Singapore said that Shearer had signed for the people of Newcastle.

Asked if he was planning to strengthen his

squad further Keegan jokingly responded, "Sir John Hall was a multi-millionaire when I joined the club but now he's an ordinary millionaire."

Keegan has spent around \$A100million since February 1992.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA PREMIER LEAGUE



ATHENA FLOREAT